

THE ROYAL FUSILIERS  
IN AN  
OUTLINE OF MILITARY HISTORY



HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE V, Colonel-in-Chief.



THE ROYAL FUSILIERS  
IN  
AN OUTLINE  
OF  
MILITARY HISTORY

1685—1926



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## NOTE BY THE AUTHOR

THE following works are among those which have been consulted in compiling this little Outline of History. In several instances whole paragraphs have been borrowed.

W. Wheeler's "Historical Record of the Seventh or Royal Regiment of Fusiliers."

Oman's "History of England."

Napier's "Peninsular War."

Kinglake's "Invasion of the Crimea."

"A Short History of the Royal Welch Fusiliers."

Norman's "Battle Honours of the British Army."



## TO THE READER

THIS book will be given into your hands when you are about to be accorded a great privilege—that of joining a famous regiment.

There is no privilege without its attendant responsibility, and yours will be clear when you have read the Record of the Fusiliers, written by a Fusilier.

The splendid History of the Regiment since its raising in 1685, has always depended on the honour of each individual member, and on his unfailing loyalty and soldierly spirit. To you is entrusted the History of the Future, into your keeping is placed the fame won by your predecessors. If you manfully carry out the Fusilier traditions, you will be playing your part in the Service of your Regiment, your King, and the Empire.

REGINALD PINNEY,

*Major-General,*

*Colonel of The Royal Fusiliers.*

RACEDOWN,

*October 28th, 1926.*







**THE ROYAL FUSILIERS  
(CITY OF LONDON REGIMENT)**

COMPOSITION OF BATTALIONS, 1926.

**REGULAR—**

1st Battalion }  
2nd Battalion } 7th Foot.  
3rd and 4th Battalions (now disbanded).

**MILITIA—**

5th Battalion (late Royal Westminster (and Middlesex) Militia).  
6th Battalion (late Royal South Middlesex Militia).  
7th Battalion (late Royal London Militia).

**TERRITORIAL BATTALIONS—**

1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th City of London Regiments (Royal Fusiliers).



*"Quenchless the flame that from the globe doth rise,  
 Fadeless the rose in all her brave attire,  
 So this dear land's enduring glory shines  
 Pure gold, rose-crowned, lit by a flame of fire."*

W. V. W.

#### THE COLOURS OF THE ROYAL FUSILIERS.

"These are the stories our Colours have to tell, these the lessons the names upon them teach. Not merely gallantry in action—that is a small thing, and one inherent to our race.

"They teach of privations uncomplainingly borne, of difficulties nobly surmounted, of steadfast loyalty to the Crown, and of obedience to orders even when that obedience meant certain death.

"These are the honours which have found an abiding place on the Colours of the British Army."

NORMAN.

## HONOURS BORNE ON THE COLOURS

"Namur, 1695" — "Martinique, 1809" — "Talavera" — "Busaco" —  
 "Albuhera" — "Badajoz" — "Salamanca" — "Vittoria" — "Pyrenees" —  
 "Orthes" — "Toulouse" — "Peninsula" — "Alma" — "Inkerman" —  
 "Sevastopol" — "Kandahar, 1880" — "Afghanistan, 1879-80" — "Relief of  
 Ladysmith" — "South Africa, 1899-1902" — "Mons" — "Marne, 1914" —  
 "Ypres, 1914, '15, '17, '18" — "Somme, 1916, '18" — "Arras, 1917, '18" —  
 "Cambrai, 1917, '18" — "Hindenburg Line" — "Struma" — "Landing at  
 Helles" — "Palestine, 1918."

## HONOURS GRANTED FOR THE GREAT WAR AND NOT BORNE ON THE KING'S COLOUR.

"Le Cateau" — "Retreat from Mons" — "Aisne, 1914" — "La Bassée, 1914" —  
 "Messines, 1914, '17" — "Armentières, 1914" — "Nonne Bosschen" — "Graven-  
 stafel" — "St. Julien" — "Frezenberg" — "Bellewaarde" — "Hooge, 1915" —  
 "Loos" — "Albert, 1916, '18" — "Bazentin" — "Delville Wood" — "Pozières" —  
 "Flers-Courcellette" — "Thiépval" — "Le Transloy" — "Ancre Heights" —  
 "Ancre, 1916, '18" — "Vimy, 1917" — "Scarpe, 1917" — "Arleux" — "Pilckem" —  
 "Langemarck, 1917" — "Menin Road" — "Polygon Wood" — "Broodseinde" —  
 "Poelcappelle" — "Passchendaele" — "St. Quentin" — "Bapaume, 1918" —  
 "Rosières" — "Avre" — "Villers Bretonneux" — "Lys" — "Estaires" — "Haze-  
 brouck" — "Béthune" — "Amiens" — "Drocourt-Quéant" — "Havrincourt" —  
 "Epéhy" — "Canal du Nord" — "St. Quentin Canal" — "Beaurevoir" —  
 "Courtrai" — "Selle" — "Sambre" — "France and Flanders, 1914-18" —  
 "Italy, 1917-18" — "Macedonia, 1915-18" — "Helles" — "Krithia" — "Suvla" —  
 "Scimitar Hill" — "Gallipoli, 1915-16" — "Egypt, 1916" — "Megiddo" —  
 "Nablus" — "Troitsa" — "Archangel, 1919" — "Kilimanjaro" — "Behobeho" —  
 "Nyangao" — "E. Africa, 1915-17."



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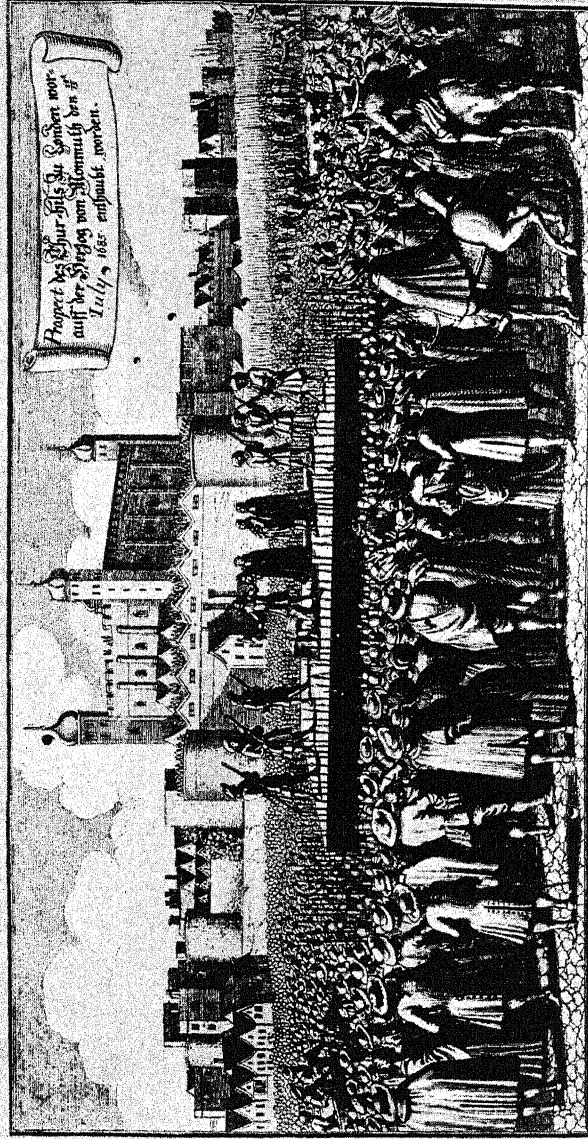
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*Execution of the Duke of Monmouth, July 1685.*

The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, or the Ordnance Regiment, was raised in the Tower of London by George Legge, Lord Dartmouth, under authority of the Royal Warrant dated June 11th, 1685, in consequence of the rebellion of the Duke of Monmouth.

# THE ROYAL FUSILIERS

## IN AN OUTLINE OF MILITARY HISTORY

### CHAPTER I

#### EARLY DAYS

Feudal system—Mercenaries—First Standing Army—Royal Fusiliers raised—Lord Dartmouth—Unpopularity of James II—The Seven Bishops—Coming of William of Orange—Flight of James II—Death of Lord Dartmouth—Fusiliers go to Holland—Battle of Walcourt—Marlborough appointed Colonel—Capture of Cork and Kinsale—Back to Flanders: Namur: Battles of Steinkerk and Landen—"Namur, 1695."

IN olden days there was no Regular Army in England. Armed men were collected for war as necessity arose.

For some hundreds of years, after the Norman Conquest, the means of producing an army, when required, is known as the "Feudal System." Powerful nobles held large estates from the Crown on condition that they found a certain number of fighting men. These nobles, in their turn, gave grants of land to smaller people on similar terms. Thus all land was held in return for liability for military service.

When the King made war, as many as were required were called upon to fulfil their promises. This system worked well for a time, especially as the chief sports and games in those days necessitated skill in the use of weapons—tournaments, archery, quarter-staff, etc. Archery practice was, for a long period, compulsory for all able-bodied men; while certain games, notably shove-halfpenny, were forbidden.

Military service under the Feudal System was intended to provide for the defence of the country, and, as such wars were likely to be of short duration, the liability for service was for a period of three months only. The system, therefore, broke down during the long wars in France in the Middle Ages. Gradually, in lieu of personal service, a levy or tax was imposed and men were hired to serve in the wars. Thus a class of professional soldiers, or mercenaries, arose. These mercenaries were dismissed as soon as a war ended, and, having no other occupation, were often a nuisance and source of trouble. Similar conditions existed

in other countries, and as a result unemployed soldiers were to be found all over Europe looking for a war and ready to join the first side willing to pay them.

It was not until 1660 that a Regular or Standing Army was formed in England. The discovery of new lands, expansion of trade, British settlements overseas, the existence of permanent armies in Europe, and the hostility and jealousy of foreign powers, made it necessary for England to have permanent forces for the defence of the kingdom and its overseas possessions.

1660 was the year Charles II was restored to the throne after the Civil War and the death of Oliver Cromwell. In accordance with the permission given by Parliament, the Royal Navy was placed on a permanent footing and a few regiments were raised. It is for this reason that the Royal Navy is known as the "Senior Service," otherwise the Army might well claim to be the older, because in former days sailors worked the ships while soldiers were employed on board to do the fighting. King Charles and his ministers, however, did little to make the forces efficient, and when the Dutch declared war the Navy was unable to oppose their fleet. For the first and only time the citizens of London heard the enemy's guns when a Dutch fleet sailed up the Thames and destroyed the shipping.

A few years later, when James II was King, the Protestant Duke of Monmouth threatened invasion and landed at Lyme Regis.

**1685** Several new regiments were raised to meet this danger, and

King James II decided that the first of these should be an Ordnance Regiment, for the care and protection of the cannon. Before this time there was no regiment of Artillery, and the cannon, which were kept in the Tower of London, were manned by two gunners and one matrosse to each gun. When required for use carters with their horses were hired to move them about. These carters were untrained and unreliable, therefore the Artillery could do little in the way of manœuvring or protecting itself. So it was considered necessary to have a special regiment into whose care the cannon were placed. At this period infantry regiments were not armed throughout with a firing weapon. They consisted of musketeers, pikemen, and grenadiers. In order to give this special regiment greater powers of offence and defence, every man was armed with a superior pattern of musket, or "fusil," and as the regiment was the first of its kind in the English Service, the King specially patronized it by making it "Our Royal Regiment of Fusiliers." Having no pikemen, each man was armed with a plug bayonet, which fitted into the muzzle of his fusil. He also carried a sword. Later other regiments, notably the 5th, 21st and 23rd, were made Fusiliers as a reward for distinguished service.





**GEORGE LEGGE. LORD DARTMOUTH.**

First Colonel of the Royal Fusiliers.

Master General of the Ordnance.

Admiral Commander-in-Chief to the Fleet.



The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, or the Ordnance Regiment, was raised in the Tower of London by George Legge, Lord Dartmouth, under authority of a Royal Warrant dated June 11th, 1685. Lord Dartmouth was Master General of the Ordnance and, as such, the officer responsible for the Artillery. He was appointed Colonel of the Regiment by commission bearing the same date. Two old independent companies, which had long garrisoned the Tower, were taken as a nucleus, and ten additional companies were added. Each company consisted of 3 officers, 3 sergeants, 3 corporals, 2 drummers and 100 privates. The establishment was completed by June 27th, and the Regiment was ordered to the Tower for duty. Thus the Tower of London may be regarded as the cradle of the Royal Fusiliers.

During the first few years of its service the Regiment spent the summer months on Hounslow Heath, guarding the cannons in the great camps which King James established there to overawe the growing discontent displayed by the citizens of London. James II was unpopular. He had become a Roman Catholic, and the country was strongly Protestant. He was a firm friend to France, the great Roman Catholic power, with whom our old enmity had revived.

The struggle for trade and overseas possessions had commenced, and our interests were opposed everywhere.

Opposition to James grew rapidly when he caused seven Bishops to be arrested for treason in refusing to conform to his orders, which were calculated to restore the Roman Catholic religion. The seven Bishops were committed to the Tower of London, and were guarded by the Royal Fusiliers. The Regiment found this duty most distasteful, and it is on record that they received their Bishop prisoners on their knees.

As a result of his unpopularity, there was a strong party in favour of deposing King James and of inviting William, Prince of Orange, to come over to England. William was closely related to the Royal Family. He was the son of James's sister, and had also married James's daughter. He was therefore the King's nephew and son-in-law. He was a staunch Protestant and a bitter enemy to the French, who had designs on his possessions in the Netherlands.

In 1688 there were good grounds for believing that William of Orange was about to come over to join the King's opponents.  
1688 A fleet, under Lord Dartmouth, was despatched to watch the Dutch coast in order to intercept him. Lord Dartmouth, though then Colonel of the Royal Fusiliers, had served previously at sea. He took with him one company of his Regiment to act as marines. William did not leave Holland and the fleet returned.

The following year, however, William landed in the south-west of England, and was joined by many influential people. King  
1689 James, finding the country was against him, fled to France. William and his wife Mary were proclaimed jointly King and Queen—the only instance of a double sovereignty on the British throne.

The Royal Fusiliers had performed but a small part in these events. They remained in the Tower. When King James embarked in a boat at Somerset House, in the first stage of his flight, the Privy Council met at the Guildhall, and, having declared for the Prince of Orange sent “to the Tower to demand the keys thereof, which were sent to their lordships, and they appointed Lord Lucas governor thereof.”

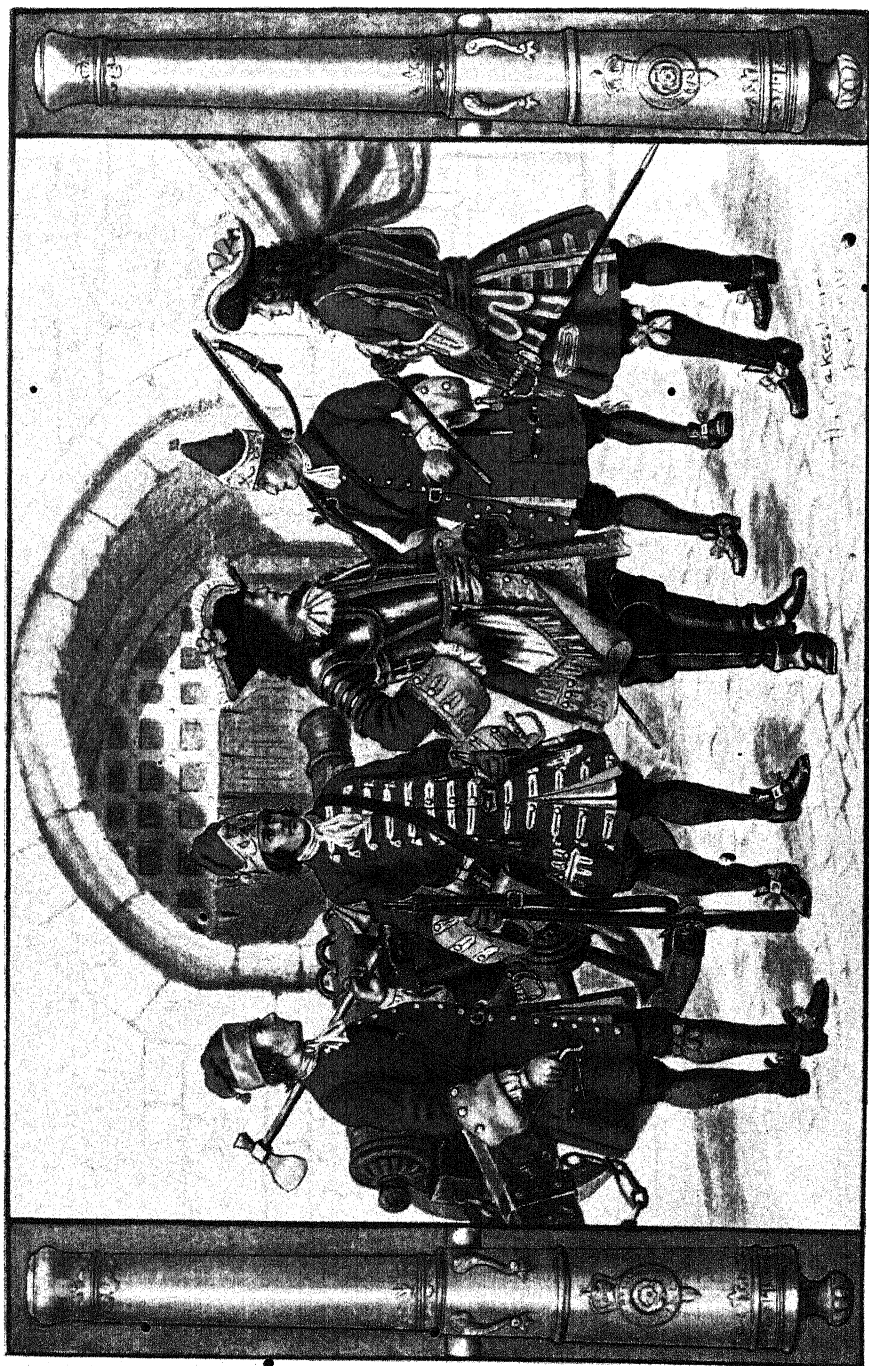
Immediately afterwards Lord Dartmouth, one captain, one lieutenant, one sergeant and some privates were dismissed from the Regiment, either for adherence to King James or for being Roman Catholics.

A short time after being deprived of his command Lord Dartmouth was imprisoned on a charge of corresponding with the former King. He died suddenly before trial and was buried in the Trinity Chapel Minories. He had had a distinguished career in the service of his country. He entered the Navy in 1665 and served in the first Dutch War. In the second Dutch War he commanded a ship at the Battle of Solebay, and again in Rupert's attack on Van Tromp in 1673. In 1683 he was sent to destroy the fortress of Tangier and withdraw the garrison—an operation he performed with signal success. “The crime of having been personally the friend of James II was deemed sufficient ground to induce at least a suspicion of treason. He was arrested and committed a prisoner to the Tower, where grief or indignation, at the treatment he experienced, is supposed to have accelerated his end.”

Within a few months of King William's accession to the Throne, the Royal Fusiliers went to war for the first time. The English people were not particularly anxious to fight the French for the sole purpose of helping the new King to defend his Dutch and Belgian possessions, but it became inevitable when the French King agreed to provide the fugitive James with men and money to help him recover his throne.

The Regiment formed part of a force under John Churchill, afterwards Duke of Marlborough, which was sent to Holland to help the Dutch against the French. The Regiment distinguished itself at the Battle of Walcourt (August 25th, 1689). As a reward for his victory Marlborough was made Colonel of the Royal Fusiliers.

The Regiment was soon ordered home, as trouble had broken out in Ireland, where the fugitive James had landed with French  
1690 troops; and the Irish, except the Ulster Protestants, had declared for him. The Royal Fusiliers were in a Brigade under Marl-



THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF FUSILIERS, or THE ORDNANCE REGIMENT, 1685-90.  
Miner. Grenadier. Colonel. Fusilier. Lieutenant.





borough which captured Cork and Kinsale. Shortly afterwards James, with his French and Irish troops, was defeated finally at the Battle of the Boyne. The Royal Fusiliers were not, however, present at this victory.

As soon as the Irish War permitted, the Regiment was hurried back to Belgium, where reinforcements were urgently needed. The  
**1691** French were victorious everywhere. The Royal Fusiliers formed part of the garrison of Namur, which was besieged. After an heroic defence, when short of food and ammunition, the garrison arranged to surrender if allowed to march away with their arms, drums beating and colours flying. This was agreed to, and the Royal Fusiliers rejoined the English Army and were present at the two battles of Steinkerk (1692) and Landen (1693), in each of which the Anglo-Dutch Army was defeated; yet, after each fight, the English troops showed such a formidable front that the French gained nothing by their victories and hardly a foot of ground.

At Landen the Royal Fusiliers especially distinguished themselves and displayed that stern valour which has always characterized British soldiers. "Their commanding officer, Lieut.-Colonel Whalley, fell mortally wounded, yet they disputed the ground with unyielding tenacity until all chance of ultimate success had passed away; then they withdrew from the field and, joining a large body of infantry under Lieut.-General Talmash, retired by the Beck stream upon Dormal and thence to Lewe. The enemy attempted to stop their retreat, but the British battalions, promptly facing about, confronted their pursuers. The French soon halted and the retrograde movement was performed with trifling loss."

The fortunes of war then turned and the Royal Fusiliers were once more at Namur, this time with the besieging army. The Siege of Namur commenced on July 3rd, 1695, and three days later King William determined to carry the outworks by assault. The Guards attacked on the right, the Royal Scots and Royal Fusiliers on the left. The assault was successful, but the losses were heavy, the casualties in the Royal Fusiliers being 95. A few days later the Citadel was captured and Namur surrendered.

"Namur, 1695" is the earliest battle honour on the Regimental Colours. It is also borne by the Royal Welch Fusiliers, and forms the first link in the long war connection between the two regiments.

The honour was granted in 1910—250 years after the battle.

In 1697 the French asked for peace and agreed not to support

**1697** James. The Royal Fusiliers returned to England after an absence of six years.

## CHAPTER II

### WAR OF THE SPANISH SUCCESSION

Causes—Marlborough's great victories: Blenheim, etc.—Admiral Rooke captures Gibraltar, 1704—Fusiliers at Vigo—Relief of Barcelona—Siege of Lerida—  
6 Spain and the Balearic Islands.

PEACE did not last long, for in 1702 England was once more at war with France and Spain. This war is known as the War of 1702 the Spanish Succession. The King of Spain died and a dispute arose as to who was to succeed him. At first sight it is difficult to think that the English people should have cared who was King of Spain. The situation, however, was this: Spain owned, or claimed, the greater part of Belgium and Italy, and had large possessions in America. Spain was second only to France among the powers of Europe. The French King's grandson was one of the claimants to the Spanish throne, and England realized that a united France and Spain would upset the balance of power and threaten her existence. It was apparent that the hostile feeling between England and both France and Spain was growing rapidly. Interests, in foreign trade and overseas possessions, clashed: settlers in America and the Indies were already fighting each other although their respective nations were still at peace.

King William was anxious that England should intervene on the side opposed to the French claimant in order to safeguard his Dutch and Belgian possessions. It is doubtful, however, if the Government would have entered on the war but for an additional reason. The fugitive King James died, and the French King, contrary to the Treaty of Peace made four years previously, publicly recognized King James's son as the King of England and promised him assistance.

England joined with Austria, Holland, Portugal and minor German states against France and Spain. Just before war was declared King William died; his wife, Queen Mary, was already dead. He was succeeded by the next Protestant heir, Anne, another daughter of the late fugitive King James.

The war lasted ten years, until 1712. The Allied Armies in the main theatre of operations, Belgium, were commanded by the Duke of Marlborough, the former Colonel of the Royal Fusiliers.

The French and Spanish Armies were defeated in the famous battles of Blenheim, Ramillies, Oudenarde and Malplaquet. Admiral Rooke captured Gibraltar in 1704, and it has remained in British hands ever since.



The Royal Fusiliers were not with Marlborough on these great victories. On the outbreak of the war the Regiment was ordered from its station in the Channel Islands to England, where the Colonel—Sir Charles O'Hara—was ordered to place himself and his Regiment under the Duke of Ormond. A large force had assembled "for service on board the fleet," and, to it, Sir Charles was appointed Major-General. The force embarked in a fleet of 203 sail, which was to attack some of the coast towns of Spain. The Fusiliers were distributed in ten warships and three transports.

A landing was effected on August 15th, 1702, near Cadiz; the towns of Rota, Port St. Mary and Fort Catherine were captured, and a great deal of plundering ensued. An attack on the actual defences of Cadiz was considered impracticable, and the troops re-embarked a month later for England. On the voyage it was learnt that the Spanish galleons, or treasure ships, under a French convoy had put into Vigo. It was decided to attack them. The troops were landed on the south side of the river above Vigo. The Grenadiers carried the fort of Rodonella, mounting 40 guns, at the entrance of the harbour. A passage being thus opened, the ships followed through and the whole of the French and Spanish ships were either captured or destroyed. An immense booty fell into the hands of the British. A quaint catalogue of the loot is given in Harleian MSS. 7052. The share of the Fusiliers in this plunder is given, over the signature of Major Hunt Withers, as "one ninth part of all the silver and vinelloes." The troops re-embarked for England, the Royal Fusiliers being carried, two companies in H.M.S. *Grafion* and one company in each of H.M.Ss. *Sorlings*, *Phoenix* and *Hawke*. As this distribution only allows for five companies, whereas ten appear to have embarked, it would seem that some of the companies continued on board the fleet serving as marines.

In February, 1706, the British Government decided to send an army to Spain and, with other troops, the Royal Fusiliers embarked  
1706 at Plymouth, and proceeded to Gibraltar. There it was learnt that Barcelona, garrisoned by 3,000 English troops, besides Catalans, under Lord Donegal, was besieged by a French army of 20,000 men. The troops were at once transferred to men-of-war, which sailed for Barcelona. They arrived just in time. The garrison was in sore straits. The French were getting the upper hand; Lord Donegal had been killed, and the final assault on the town was hourly expected. The opportune arrival of the Fleet, however, changed the aspect. The troops were landed and posted behind the breaches ready to repel the threatened attack. The French, who had already suffered heavy losses, declined to assault in the face of these reinforcements, and withdrew, leaving their artillery, provisions, and other stores.

The history of the Regiment during the remainder of the war is not very clear. Apparently it was not at the disastrous Battle of Almanza, where the British and their Allies were nearly destroyed, though its Colonel—Sir Charles O'Hara (now Lord Tyrawley) and his son, Captain James O'Hara of the Regiment, were present, the latter being wounded. A few months later, however, it formed part of the force besieged in Lerida. For more than a month the little garrison held the place despite all the efforts of the French. Then, a breach having been effected, the town was carried by assault. The remnants of the garrison retreated into the Castle, and held the French in check for another month. But supplies became entirely exhausted, and the garrison was compelled to capitulate. As a regiment the Royal Fusiliers had been destroyed, but "the very brave and bloody resistance they and their fellow soldiers had maintained won for them the most advantageous terms and high respect of their opponents." The remnants of the garrison marched out of Lerida with their baggage, two pieces of cannon, and their Colours flying. They were conducted to the Allied Army and thence to Barcelona, where they embarked for England. The names of many veteran officers disappear from the regimental list at this time. It is presumed they fell at Lerida. Among the missing names are those of Lieut.-Colonel Hunt Withers and Major Christopher Simpson. The former had fought all through King William's War, being wounded at Landen. The latter had served under Marlborough at Cork and Kinsale, also at Steinkerk, Landen, and Namur.

The Royal Fusiliers was brought up to its strength again during a year spent in various towns in Devon and was ordered back to  
**1709** Spain in May, 1709. It was selected to take part in an expedition to Cadiz, and embarked on board the fleet, which was to sail for Gibraltar. On arrival there it was found plans had been changed, and the Regiment is next heard of in camp at Tarragona. Its history during the remaining three years of the war is more obscure. It was still in Spain when the Battles of Almenara and Saragossa were fought, but whether it participated in those victories is not known.

In 1713 the Regiment was in garrison at Minorca, Balearic  
**1713** Islands, under command of Colonel Hon. James O'Hara, who had succeeded his father in the Colonelcy.

The Royal Fusiliers carry no honours for their long and arduous services throughout the War of the Spanish Succession. The operations in Spain were overshadowed by Marlborough's great victories in Flanders, but it may be questioned if the regiments, who proudly display Blenheim, Ramillies, Oudenarde, and Malplaquet on their Colours, can show a record of valour or hardship endured, superior to those regiments who took part in the less successful campaign in Catalonia.





THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF ENGLISH FUSILIERS, 1742.

## CHAPTER III

FROM 1714 TO 1764.

The Rebellion of '15—Fusiliers at Messina—Naples—War of the Austrian Succession or Jenkins's Ears—Battle of Dettingen and Fontenoy—The Rebellion of '45—India : Black Hole of Calcutta and Clive's Victory at Plassey—Commencement of Seven Years' War—Fusiliers with Admiral Byng off Minorca—The Conquest of Canada—Capture of Quebec.

QUEEN ANNE died in 1714. Her fourteen children had predeceased her. Trouble arose at once about her successor. Anne's father, the fugitive King James II, had a son James Stuart, better known in English History as "The Old Pretender." While his sister was Queen he had made no attempt to assert what he considered to be his rights, but on her death he became active, and was supported by France and Spain, who saw an opportunity to foment trouble in the British Isles. James Stuart was a Roman Catholic, and the English Parliament had passed a law that the Sovereign must profess the Protestant faith. The nearest Protestant heir was the Elector of Hanover, whose mother was sister to King Charles I. Parliament elected him King—George I.

In the following years there were risings in the west of England, and in Scotland, in favour of "The Old Pretender." James  
1715 Stuart landed in Scotland with some Spanish troops and was joined by a number of the Highland clans. His supporters were defeated at Preston in Lancashire, and at Sheriffmuir and Glenshiels in Scotland, and he fled back to France.

The Royal Fusiliers took no part in these troubles. The Regiment remained in garrison in Minorca until July, 1718, when it  
1718 embarked in the Fleet, under Admiral Byng, as part of a force which was to assist the Austrians against the Spanish, in Sicily, who had committed a breach of the treaty made at the end of the War of the Spanish Succession.

The Fleet arrived off Messina on August 9th, and next day Admiral Byng attacked the Spanish fleet lying there, and defeated it in a sharp action. The Regiment was landed at a later date, and took part in operations in Sicily. It appears to have wintered in Naples. It re-embarked in the Fleet in 1719 and, after a short stay in the south of England, proceeded to Ireland, where it was expected Spanish troops would be landed to stir up the Irish people in favour of "The Old Pretender."



The Royal Fusiliers returned to England in 1727, the year of the death of King George I and accession of George II. It was  
**1727** quartered about Salisbury, with detachments in various places in Wiltshire and Hampshire. It appears also to have been employed on duties in connection with the suppression of smuggling in the neighbourhood of Bristol and the West Country. It was, however, assembled in January, 1728, on Hounslow Heath for inspection by the King.

In 1733 France and Spain declared war again on Austria, this time on the question of Polish Succession. England did  
**1733** not intervene to help her former ally, and Austria was defeated, losing Naples, which the Royal Fusiliers had helped to save a few years previously. The defeat of Austria left England with no friend on the Continent, and France and Spain became paramount in Europe. These two countries made a treaty by which they bound themselves to do their best to put an end to England's naval supremacy, and to crush her commercial greatness. British commerce and colonial power had grown enormously in the preceding few years. Her merchants were gradually ousting the French and Spanish from trade. The East India Company was making great advances in India at the expense of the French. In the West Indies most of the sugar and tobacco trade had been taken from the Spaniards. In North America British colonists threatened a speedy end to their French rivals. However, now that France and Spain had combined, and England was without an ally, there were renewed attacks on British trade. Merchants became exasperated, but the Government, tired of war, would do nothing until a small incident brought England into conflict with Spain. A small British ship was boarded by Spanish officials; the skipper, Jenkins, protested and was maltreated. The Spaniards cut off his ears and told him to show them to his countrymen. Jenkins returned home with his ears in a box and toured London and other cities. There was a great outcry. The Government was compelled to demand compensation from Spain, who replied by declaring war. The English Government confined its efforts to the sending of a fleet to Spanish America, with very indifferent results.

The war, however, spread, for in 1741 Austria once more became involved with France and Spain, and England, glad to find an  
**1741** ally, joined in. This war, known generally as the "War of the Austrian Succession," is known to English historians as the "War of Jenkins's Ears."

An allied British-Hanoverian Army defeated the French at the Battle of Dettingen, in Germany. This battle was the last in which a  
**1743** King of England was present in person and the last in which the order of knighthood was conferred on the field. After the victory



King George II made three Knights Banneret—the Commander-in-Chief (the Earl of Stair), Colonel J. Campbell, and Trooper Brown of the 3rd Dragoons (now 3rd King's Own Hussars).

"Historians ridicule the part played by King George on the field of Dettingen, but we may rely on it that the British Army appreciated the kingly action when, at the close of the day, veteran Field-Marshal and wounded trooper alike received from their Sovereign the accolade of honour."

Later in the war the Battle of Fontenoy, in Belgium, an indecisive fight, was regarded as a defeat for the British. French and Spanish maritime trade was practically ruined by the action of the British Navy, and many of their colonies were captured. Peace followed in 1748.

Before the war ended, however, there was another rising in England.

Charles Edward Stuart, son of the "Old Pretender" and known **1745** himself in history as the "Young Pretender," made a final attempt to gain the English Throne. He was urged on by the French, who hoped to create a diversion in their own favour. He landed in Scotland and was joined, as his father had been, by a number of the Highland clans. He captured Edinburgh and invaded England, defeating an English force at Preston Pans. He found few supporters in England, and his Highlanders, either quarrelling among themselves or satisfied with loot, began to melt away. Charles Edward retreated to Scotland, followed by an English army under the Duke of Cumberland. He was totally defeated at Culloden and, escaping to France, made no further attempts.

The Royal Fusiliers took no active part in these campaigns. The Regiment remained in garrison at Gibraltar till the conclusion of peace. The importance of the "Rock" in a war against France and Spain was too great to allow of the garrison being reduced. It moved to Ireland in 1749, and thence to England in 1755.

It was not long, however, before England was again at war with France." In fact, fighting had already commenced between **1756** English and French settlers in India and America. In India,

British trading stations had been long established in Madras and Calcutta. Bombay had been handed over by the Portuguese some hundred years before as a dowry, or wedding present, when King Charles II married a Portuguese princess. British and French traders posed as allies of opposing Indian chiefs; in reality they were fighting each other. Robert Clive, a writer in the East India Company, greatly distinguished himself as a soldier and laid the foundation of the Indian Empire.

In America the French were busy on a scheme to drive colonists out of the country.

At first things went badly for the English in both continents. In India the Nawab of Bengal, backed by the French, seized the English

trading station at Calcutta, and then followed the tragedy known as the "Black Hole of Calcutta," where 150 English men, women and children were placed in a dungeon, or cellar, twenty feet square. It was in the middle of the hot season, and after one night only about a dozen remained alive. Subsequently Clive with his native troops and one British regiment defeated the Indians and their French allies in the battles of Plassey and Wandewash. The Dorsetshire Regiment, to commemorate the fact that it was the first regiment to serve in India, bears the motto, "Primus in Indis."

In America our colonists also suffered reverses at the hands of the French, and later a small regular force was defeated. The British Government, in such circumstances, was glad to find an ally in Prussia, then at war with France, and entered what is known as the "Seven Years' War."

The war commenced with an unfortunate incident in which the Royal Fusiliers were involved. The French threatened an attack on the island of Minorca, and a British fleet under Admiral Byng was ordered to assist the garrison. The Royal Fusiliers were embarked in the fleet, the marines in all the ships being disembarked to make room for them. It is not clear whether the Regiment was intended to serve as marines or to be conveyed as reinforcements to the garrison, but that they did serve as marines is proved by the evidence of Colonel The Honourable Edward Cornwallis, of the 24th Foot, who at a Court of Enquiry stated, "and did duty the same as the English Fusiliers who were on board as Marines."\* The whole affair was marked by delay and mismanagement, and when the fleet arrived off Minorca it was found that the garrison had already surrendered. The Regiment took part in Admiral Byng's engagement of some days later. This engagement, a blunder in itself and ill conducted, was futile, for the French had already captured Minorca, the capitulation of which allowed the garrison to be conveyed to Gibraltar. The Royal Fusiliers were also disembarked at Gibraltar, where they remained till the end of the war, and, considering the importance of the fortress, they could not have expected to be moved.

The capture of Minorca resulted in a great public outcry at home, and the Government, anxious to placate public opinion, brought Admiral Byng to trial for cowardice. He was shot on his own quarter-deck.

The war was pushed with vigour, and an English army was dispatched to the Continent; William Pitt, the great statesman, saying: "I am conquering Canada on the plains of Germany."

\* See report of General Officers, December 8th, 1756.

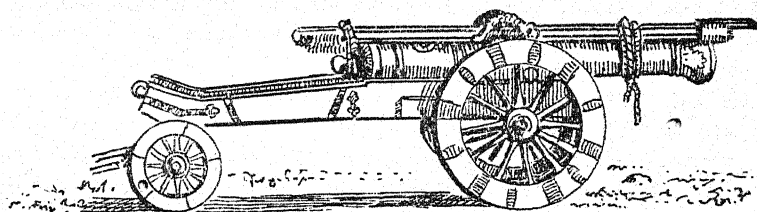
The fortune of war then turned, and the British were victorious everywhere. Fleets under Admirals Boscawen and Hawke destroyed the French fleets in the Battle of Lagos and Quiberon Bay.

In Germany several victories were gained, notably Minden, where the Lancashire Fusiliers greatly distinguished themselves fighting in a rose garden, and gained the right to wear roses in their head-dress on the anniversary.

In America, after minor setbacks, success also was complete. After the final victory of the capture of Quebec the British flag waved,  
**1757** without a rival throughout the whole of North America.

Regiments which were present at Quebec wear a thread of black through the gold lace on their tunics as a sign of perpetual mourning for their commander, General Wolfe, who fell in the moment of victory.

Spain entered the war in 1763, but a year later, when their navies had been destroyed, their armies defeated, and they had lost  
**1764** most of their colonies, France and Spain were glad to accept peace.



CANNON, 1685.

## CHAPTER IV

### WAR OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE.

Causes—Fusiliers at Chamblé, St. John's and Montreal disasters—Defence of Quebec—Captain Foster's brilliant exploit—Capitulations of Saratoga and Yorktown—Admiral Rodney's victory—Admiral Howe relieves Gibraltar—Disaster to the Fusiliers at Cowpens—Independence—Major André.

THE Seven Years' War left a heavy burden of debt and taxation, and the Government considered that money might be obtained from the American colonies. There was no doubt some reason in such a course, as the war had been undertaken largely on their behalf. It also appeared certain that France would make an attempt to recover her former possessions, and it was explained that the money obtained from the colonies would be used for payment of troops for their defence. The colonists opposed the idea, and there was considerable rioting when attempts were made to enforce the taxes. The Government grossly mismanaged the affair, and the action taken exasperated the colonists. Fighting began when the Colonial Militia fired on troops sent to seize stores. This skirmish proved the beginning of a general war.

The chief leader of the colonists was George Washington, an officer of the Militia who had distinguished himself in the war against France. He became, later, the first President of the United States.

When the discontent in the colonies became apparent the Royal Fusiliers were among the first reinforcements sent out. The Regiment proceeded to Canada the new territory, north of the colonies, lately captured from the French and was almost immediately involved in fighting with disastrous results. The outbreak of hostilities found the few British troops in Canada holding posts on the colonial border. The Royal Fusiliers were distributed:—2 officers and 150 men with the 26th Regiment, in St. John; Headquarters, 11 officers and 120 men, part of the garrison of Montreal; 5 officers and 90 men with the Colours in Fort Chamblé, a connecting post between St. John and Montreal; 2 officers and 70 men part of the garrison of Quebec.

As soon as hostilities commenced an American force besieged St. John. At the same time a force of Canadians, who had joined the



Americans, advanced on Fort Chamblé. With considerable skill and secrecy they conveyed their artillery in boats past the fort of St. John. Fort Chamblé was in no condition for defence. It surrendered, and the Colours being captured, were sent off to Congress as a proud trophy of the valour of their troops. They now hang in the Military College at West Point.

Less than a month later the fort of St. John also fell to the Americans. But the misfortunes of the Regiment did not end. The triumphant Americans pushed forward to Montreal and captured it. Thus, almost before the war had commenced, the whole Regiment, except for the detachment in Quebec, had been made prisoners.

Flushed with their repeated success, General Montgomery and his Americans laid siege to Quebec, and then attempted to carry it by assault. They were met by the garrison "with determined resolution, and effectually repulsed." The handful of Fusiliers, under Captain Owen, distinguished themselves. General Montgomery was killed, and the Americans utterly routed. Six months later the garrison was reinforced from the river, and issued out of the fortress. The Americans bolted, leaving behind them all their artillery and baggage. The British followed their opponents and, recovering Montreal, drove them out of Canada.

One of the feats of this pursuit deserves recording, not less for its gallantry than for its association with the Royal Fusiliers. Captain Foster, with one company 8th (King's) Regiment, one hundred Canadians and two hundred Indians, but without artillery, attacked a fort held by three hundred and ninety Americans. The audacity of the measure was Captain Foster's real strength, for it so completely cowed the garrison that it surrendered. Not knowing what to do with his prisoners, who were threatened with wholesale massacre by the Indians, Captain Foster agreed to release them in exchange for the Royal Fusiliers and 26th Regiment captured at Fort Chamblé and St. John.

The conditions were accepted, the American officers being sent to Quebec as hostages and the men to their homes. Congress, disgusted with the defence, at first refused to carry out the exchange. It was, however, effected, and the Royal Fusiliers rejoined the British Army in New York.

When reinforcements, mainly German mercenaries, arrived from England, General Howe defeated the Americans at Brooklyn and Brandywine, and captured Philadelphia, but shortly afterwards a British force, under General Burgoyne, which had advanced from Canada, 1777 was cut off, and after hard fighting, and when starving, was forced to surrender at Saratoga.

This reverse was welcomed by France and Spain, who declared war on England to assist the new republic, which the former colonists named

the United States of America, when they declared their independence of the Mother Country.

The war continued with varying success for some years. Lord Cornwallis defeated the Americans and their French Allies in 1781 several battles. Then came a great disaster. Cornwallis, after a successful campaign, moved his army to Yorktown to meet a fleet bringing food and reinforcements from England. The Fleet had been intercepted by a French fleet under Admiral de Grasse. Cornwallis found the French fleet off the port. His army was hemmed in by French and American armies. He made a desperate effort to cut his way out, but had to capitulate.

Things looked black for England. The break-up of the British Empire appeared probable, but two great sea victories saved the situation. Admiral Rodney met the French Fleet off St. Lucia, in the West Indies, and destroyed it, capturing Admiral de Grasse, who had been instrumental in bringing about the disaster to Lord Cornwallis' Army. Admiral Howe relieved Gibraltar, which had been besieged by French and Spanish armies and fleets for over three years. Regiments which formed the garrison commemorate this siege by a special cap or collar badge—Castle and Key.

England thus reasserted her naval supremacy, but, disheartened by discontent at home and trouble in Ireland, was glad to make a peace recognizing the independence of her former colony.

The part taken by the Royal Fusiliers in this unfortunate war is not well recorded, and is somewhat confused. The Regiment took part in several minor successes, and was in garrison at Philadelphia during the winter of 1777. In 1778 it embarked in the Fleet, landed at Savannah in South Carolina, and formed part of the force which besieged and captured Charlestown, which surrendered with ten American regiments. In January, 1781, while serving in South Carolina, it was ordered to proceed to reinforce the garrison of a fort then besieged by the Americans. The strength of the Regiment, according to records, was only 9 officers and 167 other ranks. While on the march it received fresh orders to join a force under Colonel Tarleton. Tarleton encountered and blindly and rashly attacked an American force at Cowpens. This affair was the last the Royal Fusiliers took part in during the war of American Independence. In it the Regiment was destroyed. "For a second time during this unfortunate war, its Colours were captured by the enemy, and most of its surviving representatives were in his hands." "The fame of the British Army was undoubtedly dimmed but, in the midst of all these misfortunes, the glories of the British soldier, as represented alike by private and company officer, shone with untarnished lustre."



The few Fusiliers who escaped from Cowpens rejoined Lord Cornwallis' Army; they were kept in garrison in South Carolina until its evacuation, when they proceeded to New York. When peace was declared in 1783 the Regiment returned to England.

No story of the War of Independence is complete without a reference to the execution of Major André. Some historians regard the act as a slur on the character of George Washington, by whose orders Major André was hanged as a spy. A fair, unbiased account of the incident may be found in the "Encyclopædia Britannica." Major André served in the Royal Fusiliers from 1771 to 1777. In 1820 his remains were brought to England by order of the British Government and lie in Westminster Abbey. The United States Government also erected a monument on the spot where he was arrested.



SHAKO PLATE; ON OCCASIONS WHEN THE SHAKO WAS WORN INSTEAD OF THE FUR HEADDRESS, 1814.

## CHAPTER V

### NAPOLEONIC WARS TO 1809.

Expansion of British power in India—French Revolution—"Glorious First of June," 1794—Naval victories of Camperdown and Cape St. Vincent—Troubles in Ireland—Napoleon in Egypt: Battle of the Nile and Abercromby's victory on land—India: Battle of Seringapatam—Napoleon's Armed Neutrality leads to war with Denmark and Battle of Copenhagen (1801)—Peace—Duke of Kent appointed to command Royal Fusiliers—Napoleon's scheme to invade England—2nd Battalion raised—Battle of Trafalgar—Fusiliers at Copenhagen, 1807—Napoleon's "Berlin Decrees"—"Martinique, 1809."

THE ten years that followed the American War were peaceful ones, and under the famous statesman William Pitt (the younger), the country prospered financially. Trade, and consequently wealth, poured in from India, where, as a result of the defeat of the French and the able administrations of Clive and Warren Hastings, England, represented by the East India Company, had become the chief power.

Settlements were also made in Australia, thus founding the present great Dominion.

In 1789 the Revolution commenced in France, which was to involve England in her last and fiercest war with her old enemy. At first, England, the champion of liberty and free government, was in sympathy with the Revolutionists. English statesmen also thought that France, governed by a free Parliament, would be friendly to England, and thus end the old traditional hatred between the two countries. When, however, anarchy and murder became the order of the day in France, and the French King and Queen, and many other prominent people, had been either executed or murdered, the English Government  
1793 protested—as it always has in such cases—and withdrew the British Ambassador from Paris. France replied by declaring war (1793).

Other European nations, fearing that anarchy might spread, declared war on France. England had a decided naval superiority of France, but had a very small army, mainly in the Colonies, and was reluctant to undertake a war on land. She, therefore, contented herself with joining the several alliances against France, furnishing, as her share in the land war, money instead of an army. At sea, the British Navy proceeded to seize all the French Colonies and to destroy French maritime trade.





THE ROYAL FUZILIERS, 1769—1780.

Officer.

Fuzilier.

Corporal Grenadier Company.

The British Fleet gained a great victory when a French squadron came out from Brest to escort a merchant fleet, and was caught and destroyed by Lord Howe on "the glorious First of June" (1794).

Gradually law and order began to take the place of anarchy in France, and a young soldier, Napoleon Bonaparte, became prominent as a successful general. Napoleon made himself Dictator of France, and eventually Emperor. He is universally admitted to be the greatest General in History.

The French armies were victorious in Europe, and England found herself alone against her old enemy. Then France persuaded another old enemy, Spain—always jealous of British commercial and colonial power—to join in the war, and finally compelled defeated Holland to become their ally. This was a serious matter, as the fleets of France, Spain and Holland would be, if united, numerically superior to the British Fleet. Six British squadrons were always at sea blockading hostile naval bases. It was clear that if the blockaded fleets could get out and unite and defeat the British Fleet nothing could prevent an invasion. When it is remembered that there were no steam ships in those days, and that blockading sailing ships were liable to be blown out to sea in rough weather, it will be realized how difficult it was to prevent the hostile fleets slipping out and uniting. To make matters worse, there was a mutiny in the British Fleet at the Nore, and the Dutch Fleet, hoping to find the North Sea unguarded, came out to join the French Fleet. Fortunately the mutiny had been put down, and Admiral Duncan met and annihilated the Dutch Fleet at Camperdown.

Shortly afterwards the Spanish Fleet slipped out of Cadiz, but was intercepted and defeated by Admirals Jervis and Nelson off Cape St. Vincent. These victories saved England.

About the same time the French tried to take advantage of the trouble in Ireland. French fleets with troops on board twice  
1798 made dashes for the Irish Coast to help the rebels. The rebels and their French allies were finally defeated at Vinegar Hill (1798).

Napoleon, now master of France, and victorious in Europe, recognized in England the one enemy who stood between him and world power.

He resorted to every means to defeat her. He prepared a scheme to form an empire in South-Eastern Europe and Egypt, from which to strike at India, which he believed to be the chief source of British wealth. He sent agents to India to stir up native princes, promising French assistance. He landed in Egypt with an army, having captured Malta on the way.

An English fleet, under Nelson, was too late to prevent him landing, but Nelson followed the French Fleet into Aboukir Bay and destroyed



it at the Battle of the Nile (1798). Napoleon was thus cut off in Egypt. He eventually abandoned his army and slipped back to France. His army left in Egypt was defeated and capitulated to an English force under Sir Ralph Abercromby.

In India, where Napoleon's intrigues had led to war, Sir Arthur Wellesley (the Duke of Wellington) won the Battle of Seringapatam.

Napoleon had still one more card to play. He induced Russia, Sweden and Denmark to join in an "armed neutrality" against England to exclude English trade from the Baltic. A British fleet under Sir Hyde Parker, with Nelson as second-in-command, sailed to Copenhagen and demanded the Danes to abandon the "armed neutrality" and to allow English ships to enter the Baltic. The Danes refused, and  
1801 Nelson forced his way through the Straits and sunk or took the Danish Fleet, when the Danes gave in.

Napoleon was victorious everywhere in Europe, but had failed against England in Egypt, India, and the Baltic. The French Fleet had been destroyed, and most of the French colonies were in English hands. This was the situation when a peace was arranged, which ended the first phase of the Napoleonic Wars, in which the Royal Fusiliers took no active part. The fighting, as far as England was concerned, was confined almost entirely to the sea.

In 1789 H.R.H. Prince Edward, afterwards Duke of Kent, and father of Queen Victoria, was appointed to command the Regiment. A year later it became necessary to reinforce the garrison of Gibraltar, and the Royal Fusiliers were conveyed there by the Fleet, Prince Edward being appointed Governor. The Regiment's stay on the Rock was only of short duration for, in 1791, it embarked in the Fleet and proceeded to Canada, where it remained under immediate command of the Prince, who continued as Colonel until 1801.

During his period in command the Prince had done much for the Regiment. He had found discipline, as in other regiments at Gibraltar, bad. His efforts to improve matters made him many enemies, and it was mainly on this account that he, with his Fusiliers, was moved to Canada. He left a regiment "that was raised to the highest state of efficiency. He had taught it to be orderly and well conducted in quarters, not from fear of punishment, but by educating the self-respect of every man in it." On his recommendations seven non-commissioned officers received commissions—a most unusual occurrence in those days.

It was during this period that a 2nd Battalion was raised for the first time—1795—but after a few months it was disbanded. However, a few years later, while the 1st Battalion was stationed in the West Indies—1804—a 2nd Battalion was raised at Wakefield in Yorkshire.



Napoleon's reason for peace had only been to give him time to prepare for another war. He was more than ever convinced 1803 that England was the one obstacle between him and world power. In 1803 the war recommenced. Napoleon concentrated an army of 150,000 men about Boulogne, and collected thousands of transports and flat-bottomed boats.

On a clear day he could see the white cliffs of England. All he required was to have the Channel clear of a British Fleet for twenty-four hours to enable him to throw his army on the English shores. A fog or gale, which would compel the British Fleet to stand out to sea, might give him the chance to slip over. He utilized the period of waiting by stirring up trouble in Ireland and India. The Irish rising was soon put down, but in India French officers and mercenaries in the pay of Indian Princes caused serious fighting. However, Lord Lake captured Delhi and Sir Arthur Wellesley (Duke of Wellington) defeated the Mahrattas at Assaye, thus still further consolidating and extending the British power in India.

England accepted Napoleon's challenge with determination. There was feverish activity in shipbuilding, and "Volunteer" Corps for Home Defence were formed in every town and county. This was the origin of the old Volunteer Force, which was to become the "Territorial Army."

In 1804 Napoleon, now Emperor, decided he was ready to invade England; but as he saw no chance of being able to slip over unopposed by the British Fleet, it was necessary for him to have a strong fleet to cover the crossing of his army.

He induced England's old enemy, Spain, once more to be against her. Spain joined, however, somewhat reluctantly, and decided to send money instead of warships. The treasure—some £2,000,000—was sent by sea. The ships were intercepted and captured by a British squadron, and England declared war on Spain.

British squadrons now blockaded all the French and Spanish Fleets. Napoleon assumed direction of the naval operations. His plan was to break the blockade and concentrate the French and Spanish Fleets. United they would be superior in numbers to the British Fleet, and thus be able to hold it off sufficiently long to permit his army to cross the Channel.

The principal French Fleet, under Admiral Villeneuve, was in Toulon Harbour, blockaded by Nelson. Napoleon ordered Villeneuve to wait till rough weather compelled Nelson to stand out to sea; then to slip out past Gibraltar and attack the small British squadron blockading the Spanish Fleet in Cadiz. The French and Spanish Fleets were then to sail towards the West Indies to draw Nelson away. Having done so, they were to double back and drive away an inferior British Fleet blockading

another French Fleet at Brest. The French and Spanish Fleets would then be greatly superior to the British Fleet and would be nearer the Channel.

Napoleon considered that even if Nelson came back from the West Indies, the French and Spanish Fleets would be able to keep command of the Channel for the twenty-four hours necessary for his army to cross.

The plan worked well to start with. Villeneuve slipped out of Toulon, released the Spanish Fleet from Cadiz and made out into the Atlantic, where he was followed by Nelson, who soon found out what had happened. Villeneuve turned back while Nelson was looking for him at Barbados.

Then chance saved England. Nelson met a small ship that had seen the French and Spanish Fleets sailing east. He hurried back and by good seamanship gained several days. Meanwhile a small British squadron under Admiral Calder attacked Villeneuve before he could reach Brest. The fight was a drawn one, but Villeneuve, instead of continuing to Brest, turned back to Cadiz with 34 ships to refit, and two days later Nelson appeared with 28 ships.

On October 21st, 1805, Villeneuve, stung by taunts of cowardice hurled at him by Napoleon, put to sea. The combined fleets of 1805 France and Spain were totally destroyed and Villeneuve captured off Cape Trafalgar by the immortal Nelson, who fell in the hour of victory.

Thus ended Napoleon's scheme for the invasion of England. So complete was Nelson's victory that for over 100 years Britannia ruled the waves undisputed, until the Germans challenged British supremacy at sea in the Great War of 1914. The attempt to invade England may be called the second phase of the Napoleonic War. It was fought entirely at sea.

The 1st Bn. Royal Fusiliers served during this period in Canada and the West Indies. As long as the French had fleets in existence it was necessary to keep garrisons to protect those places from possible French attacks. In fact, as will have been noted, Napoleon's plan played on the fear of such an attack. After Trafalgar the 1st Bn. Royal Fusiliers returned to England, where the newly-raised 2nd Battalion had remained.

Napoleon, foiled in his attempt to invade England, employed the army he had collected for the purpose to defeat the nations who had formed a new coalition against him. He defeated the Austrians at Ulm (1805), the Russians at Austerlitz (1806), and the Prussians at Jena (1806). He imposed the most humiliating terms on them.

As he was now supreme again in Europe, he decided to strike another blow at England, this time through her trade. He concluded that England's greatness lay in her trade, and if he could destroy that he

would destroy England, "that nation of shopkeepers." He devised a scheme known as the "Berlin Decrees," by which no goods made in England or carried in British ships would be allowed in any country under French influence. Practically all Europe, except Portugal, was compelled to agree to this scheme. The English Government retaliated by stating that if England was not to trade with Europe there should be no trade at all. All foreign countries were notified that British warships had orders to seize, as prizes of war, all ships, hostile or neutral, which attempted to enter any European port without having first called at a British port.

Napoleon's scheme had very different results from what he expected. The British Navy was supreme at sea, and it was almost impossible for any hostile or neutral merchant ships to reach the ports of the countries which had agreed to the scheme.

The people in these countries required such commodities as tea, coffee, sugar, cotton, etc. English merchant ships, evading the coastguards, landed their cargoes on the coast, where they were welcomed by the inhabitants, who paid five times normal price.

Though the several European countries had been compelled by Napoleon to accept the "Berlin Decrees," they did not declare war on England, who was still at war with France and Spain only.

In 1807, however, the attitude of the Danes and the fear that their fine fleet would fall into the hands of the French led the British  
**1807** Government to assemble a powerful fleet and army to take action.

The 1st Bn. Royal Fusiliers was included in this force, although it had only been at home for a few months after a tour of fifteen years' foreign service.

The Army, some 27,000 men, embarked in 377 transports and disembarked without opposition at Wibeck, a few miles from Copenhagen. A few days later there was a sharp brush with the Danes, who lost 10 guns and 1,500 prisoners. The city was invested and the siege batteries opened fire the following day. The city surrendered unconditionally, with 18 line of battle ships and 15 frigates. The troops re-embarked and, after an absence of under three months, arrived back in England with their prizes.

But the 1st Battalion was not destined to remain long at home, for in the following year it was ordered once more to Canada, and almost immediately was again on service co-operating with the Royal Navy. The West India Islands, which had been handed back to France, had become, on renewal of hostilities, a port of call and refit for all French privateers who interfered with British trade. A combined naval  
**1809** and military expedition was dispatched to capture the Island of Martinique. The Royal Fusiliers were included in a brigade

with the Royal Welch Fusiliers, with whom they had served at Copenhagen the previous year. After severe fighting the French surrendered. Among the trophies taken at Martinique were the colours, or rather the eagles, of the French 62nd and 80th Regiments. One of these fell to the Royal Fusiliers. These were the first eagles to be received in England, and King George III was pleased to command that they should be escorted in state, by the regiments of the Household Brigade, to St. Paul's Cathedral. Later they were moved to the chapel of the Royal Hospital at Chelsea, where they may now be seen.

"Martinique" is carried as a battle honour on the Regimental Colour to commemorate a gallant enterprise in which the Regiment suffered 160 casualties. Among the wounded was the Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Colonel Hon. E. M. Pakenham, who was to be wounded again three times in the Peninsular War before he fell at the head of the brigade, which included his old battalion, at the disastrous attack on New Orleans.

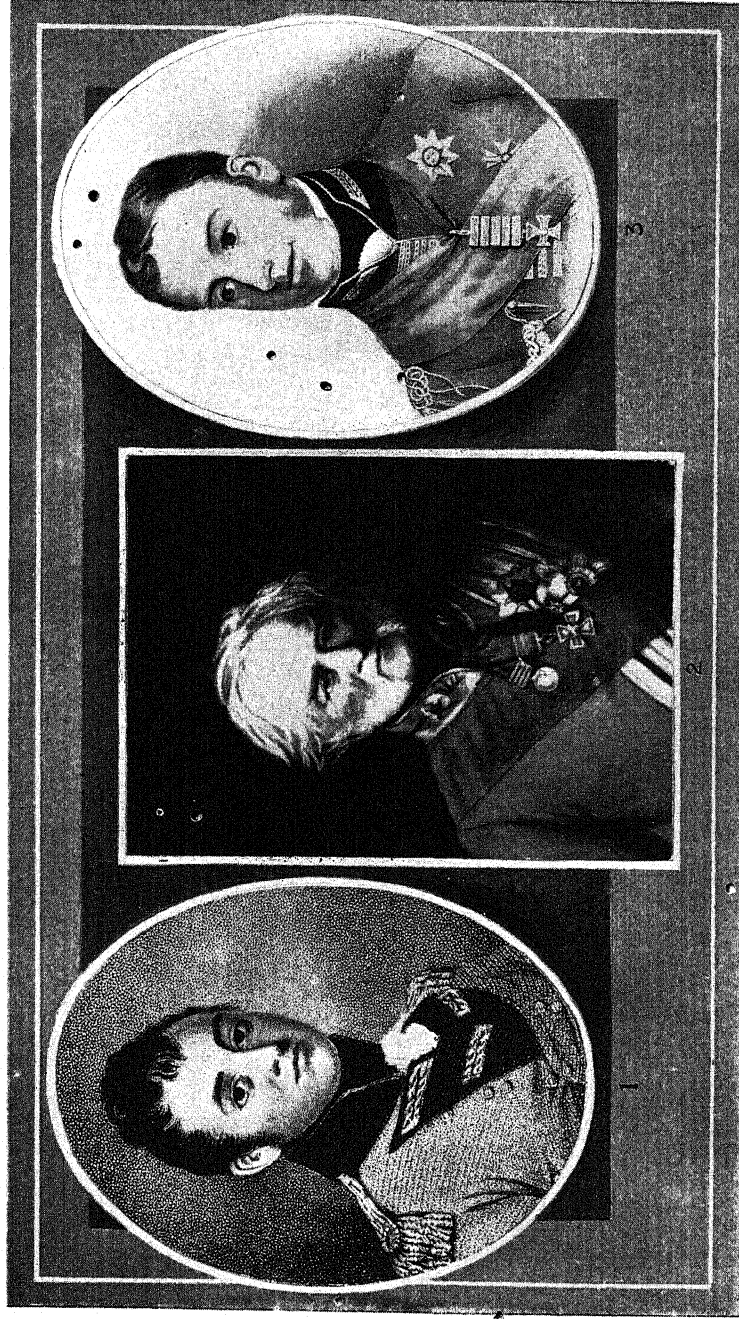
In 1847, when Queen Victoria granted a medal to the survivors of the wars against France, Martinique was included in the list of campaigns for which it was conferred, and a special clasp "Martinique" was issued.



OFFICERS CROSS BELT PLATE, 1809-1816.







1.—Lieut.-Colonel Sir William Myers.

Killed in command of the Regiment at Albuhera.

2.—Field-Marshal Sir Edward Blakeney, G.C.B., G.C.H.

Colonel of the Regiment, 1832 to 1854.

3.—Major-General the Hon. E. M. Pakenham, G.C.B.

Lieutenant-Colonel 7th Fusiliers., May, 1804. Commanded the Regiment at Martinique.  
Killed at New Orleans, January, 1815.



## CHAPTER VI.

### NAPOLEONIC WARS (*continued*)—THE PENINSULAR WAR

Spain joins England against Napoleon—British Army goes to Portugal—Convention of Cintra—Retreat to Corunna—2nd Battalion goes to Portugal—Battle of Talavera—Lines of Torres Vedras—1st Battalion joins Wellesley's Army—Battle of Busaco—The Fusilier Brigade—"Albuhera"—Sieges of Ciudad Rodrigo and Badajoz—Battle of Salamanca—Battle of Vittoria—Napoleon's Russian campaign and retreat from Moscow—Wellington prepares to invade France—Battles of Pyrenees—Siege of St. Sebastian—"Old Jack Styles"—Battles of Orthes and Toulouse.

PORTUGAL, alone of the European nations, refused to agree to the "Berlin Decrees," or trade restrictions, which Napoleon imposed on the Continent, and a French army advanced through Spain and overran Portugal.

Napoleon also had designs on his old ally Spain, and eventually deposed its King. He announced that his (Napoleon's) brother Joseph was to be King and that Spain was annexed to France. This treachery infuriated the Spaniards, who prepared to resist the invaders.

England, glad to find anyone willing to oppose Napoleon—even her old enemy Spain—promised money and assistance: thus began the Peninsular War.

A British Army, under Sir Arthur Wellesley (Duke of Wellington), landed in Portugal. The French Army was defeated at Vimiera and shut up in Lisbon. It surrendered on condition it was allowed a safe passage by sea to France (Convention of Cintra). The British Government was dissatisfied with the arrangement and Sir Arthur was recalled. The command of the army passed to Sir John Moore. About the same time the Spaniards also had a success over the French army in Spain.

The news of the defeats infuriated Napoleon. He appeared with 250,000 veterans, the victors of Austerlitz and Jena. He swept away Spanish opposition and declared he would drive the English leopard into the sea. He captured Madrid and was moving towards Lisbon when the small British Army of 25,000 men under Sir John Moore suddenly struck at his line of communication to France.

Napoleon turned with 100,000 men to deal with Sir John Moore, who fell back, drawing the French towards the hilly country in the north-west corner of Spain.

While this operation was going on Napoleon learnt that Austria, urged on by England, was again about to declare war. He was compelled to leave the Peninsula, and did not again meet British troops until he fought them at Waterloo. He handed over the pursuit of Sir John Moore to Marshal Soult, who followed him to his famous "retreat to Corunna" to meet the British Fleet. In order to secure time for a safe embarkation the little British Army turned on Soult's advanced guard and **1809** drove it back at the Battle of Corunna. Sir John Moore fell in the hour of victory.

The British Government, however, had no intention of abandoning the Peninsula, and soon dispatched another army to Portugal under Sir Arthur Wellesley (Wellington), who had come triumphant out of the inquiry instituted after the Convention of Cintra.

The 2nd Br. Royal Fusiliers was included in this army, and thus entered on its first campaign. When selected for service it was reported on "as one of the most highly regulated bodies of men in His Majesty's Service."

Wellington commenced operations by defeating Marshal Soult at Oporto and driving the French Army out of Portugal with the **1810** loss of all its artillery and transport. The part taken by the

Royal Fusiliers in the action is thus recorded by Sergeant Cooper: "The last day's march was really horrible, under a scorching sun and clouds of dust. The road was narrow and little water all the way. We had heavy knapsacks, sore feet, and after marching twenty to thirty miles, for a finish we ran into action for four miles; but the enemy were beaten before we arrived and gave us the slip by a hasty retreat. We were quartered in a splendid mansion, and the men did justice to a grand dinner which had been prepared for the French officers."

After this success Wellington advanced towards Madrid and met the Spanish Army.

The Allies were attacked by a new French Army under Marshal Victor at Talavera (July 28th, 1809). In this battle 20,000 British troops were left to repel and defeat 40,000 Frenchmen, as the Spanish Army fell back without fighting.

Sergeant Cooper again records incidents in this battle. "The (French) Column came up directly in front of our Light Company, while deploying, called out 'Spaniards,' hoping to deceive us. Captain Percy, thinking they were friends, ordered his men not to fire. But he was soon convinced of his mistake by a rattling volley. The Light Company retired on the Regiment, which immediately sprang up; but our men, being all raw soldiers, staggered for a moment under such a rolling fire. Our Colonel, Sir William Myers, seeing this, sprang from his horse and, snatching one of the Colours, cried 'Come on, Fusiliers!' 'Twas enough.

On rushed the Fusiliers and 53rd Regiment, and delivered such a fire that in a few minutes the enemy melted away, leaving six pieces of cannon behind them which they had not time to discharge."

"Talavera" as a battle honour on the Colours may be said to commemorate the first real action the 2nd Battalion took part in. The casualties are recorded as 63.

About the same time Napoleon inflicted a crushing defeat on the Austrians (Battle of Wagram), and considered the time opportune to finish off the British Army in the Peninsula. He sent his ablest General, Marshal Massena, with 70,000 picked troops, to drive Wellington into the sea.

Wellington realized that he was too weak to cope in the field with the immense forces that France poured into the Peninsula, which, by the summer of 1810, numbered 300,000.

He fell back into Portugal and prepared the famous defences, outside Lisbon, "The Lines of Torres Vedras." He removed the population from, and destroyed, a large area in front of the "Lines."

During this period the British Army also received reinforcements, among them being the 1st Bn. Royal Fusiliers from Canada.

Wellington, while falling back, turned once on his pursuers at Busaco, September 20th, 1810. Both Battalions of the Royal Fusiliers were present, but neither was heavily engaged. Records show that the 2nd Battalion lost 1 man killed and 1 officer and 22 men wounded. No details are given of any casualties in the 1st Battalion. The fighting was, however, somewhat severe in other parts of the field and "Busaco" was granted as a battle honour.

The British Army was then withdrawn inside the "Lines of Torres Vedras." Marshal Massena, the French General, to whom they came as a surprise, would not venture to attack the position. He waited in vain for further reinforcements, and his army suffered much from exposure and want of food in the devastated country. Finally, he withdrew with a loss of 20,000 men, mainly by famine.

The British Army, meanwhile, had been well fed and reinforced by sea. Opportunity was taken of the arrival of the Royal Welch Fusiliers to form a Fusilier Brigade. It comprised the two Battalions Royal Fusiliers and 1st Bn. Royal Welch Fusiliers. Its commanders are worthy of note—the Brigadier, General Pakenham, already referred to; Commanding 1st Bn. Royal Fusiliers, Lieut.-Colonel Sir William Myers, who was to fall at Albuhera while in temporary command of the Brigade; Commanding 2nd Bn., Lieut.-Colonel Blakeney, who lived to be a Field-Marshal and Colonel of the Royal Fusiliers; Commanding Royal Welch Fusiliers, Lieut.-Colonel Henry Ellis, who, after being eight times wounded in the Peninsula, was to fall at Waterloo.

In the spring of 1811, Wellington issued from the "Lines of Torres Vedras," and drove the French out of Portugal. The French 1811 held three fortresses on the Portuguese-Spanish frontier—Almeida, Ciudad Rodrigo, and Badajos. One British force, under Wellington, advanced on Almeida, and, at Fuentes d'Oñor, defeated the French Army which attempted to save the fortress.

Another British and Spanish force, under General Beresford, which included the Fusilier Brigade, invested Badajos. A French army, under Marshal Soult, marched to relieve it, and the Battle of Albuhera (May 16th, 1811) resulted. It was the fiercest battle of the war and, indeed, one of the most severe ever fought by British troops.

When Beresford heard of Soult's approach he took up a position at Albuhera, but left a part of his force, including the Fusilier Brigade, to hold the trenches investing Badajos.

When Soult attacked the position the Spanish levies fled without firing a shot; the British line was broken and a number of guns taken. French cavalry charged through the Buffs and captured their Regimental Colour. The Buffs fought heroically, and the story of how Ensign Lathom saved the King's Colour is a thrilling one. A French cavalryman seized hold of the Colour while another hacked off his arm with a sabre blow. Ensign Lathom hung on to the pole with his other hand while the Frenchman slashed at him, cutting off an ear and putting out an eye. He was finally thrown to the ground and pierced by lance thrusts, but held on to the Colour and was at last saved by a party of Buffs.

The Middlesex Regiment suffered almost as severely and earned the nickname "Die-Hards" from the words of their Colonel as he fell mortally wounded, "Die hard, 57th."

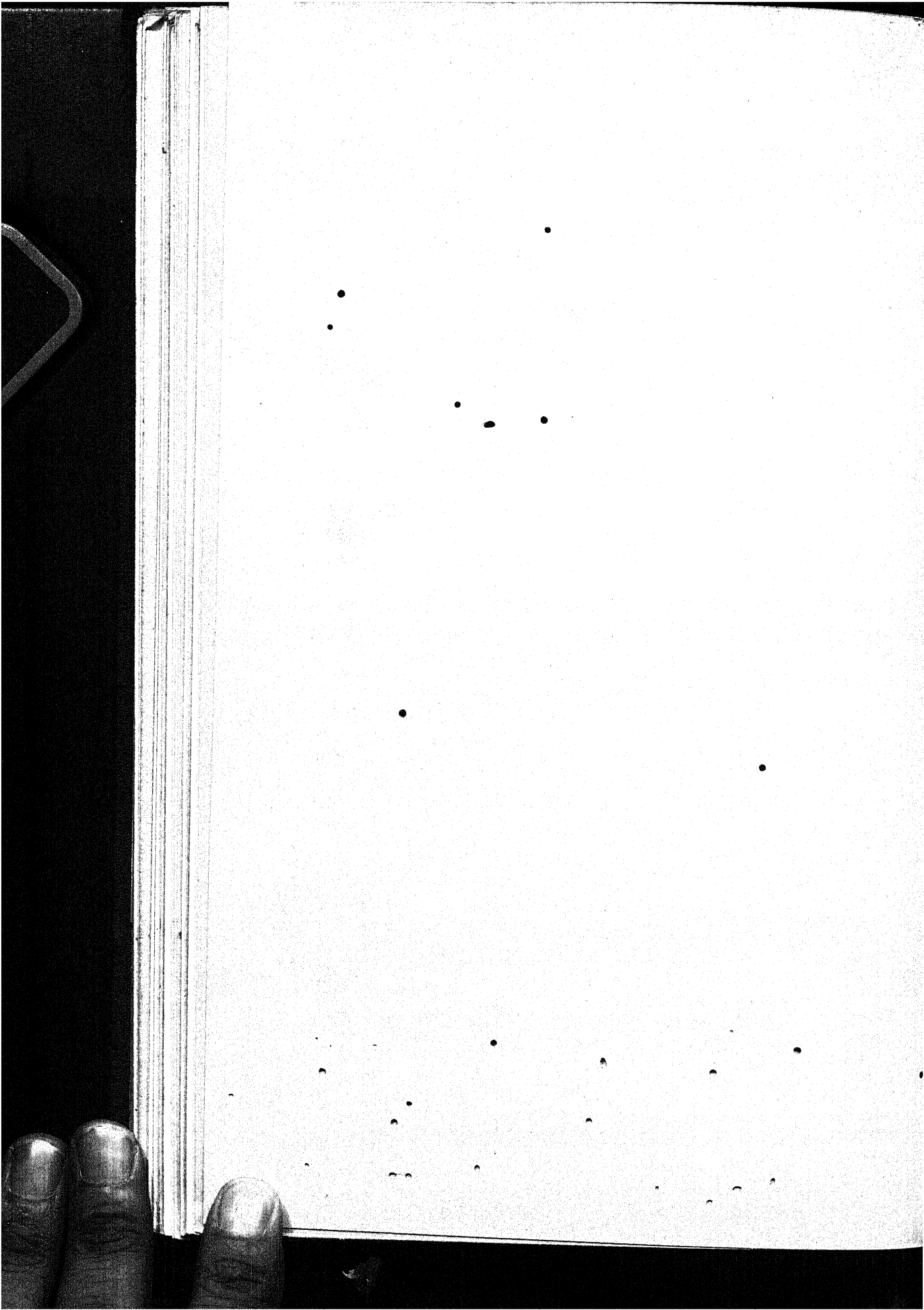
In spite of the gallantry of the British troops the French were gaining ground everywhere. It was now, however, that the Fusilier Brigade came into action. It had only left its position in front of Badajos at 2 a.m. Sergeant Cooper, in his account, says: "About midnight we were suddenly ordered to march, weary and jaded as we were, having been on picquet duty near the walls for thirty-six hours. After marching till daylight appeared, we halted and put off our greatcoats." The Brigade, having marched twenty miles, reached the Army at 9 a.m. But by this time the Spanish troops had been driven from the heights that commanded the whole position; the 1st Brigade had been pushed back by sheer force, and it is said the retreat had been ordered. Sergeant Cooper describes the scene: "The day was now apparently lost, for large masses of the enemy had gained the highest points of the battlefield, and were compactly ranged in three heavy columns, with numerous cavalry and artillery, ready to roll up our whole line. The aspect of the





THE ADVANCE OF THE FUSILIERS' BRIGADE AT ALBUHERA, MAY 16th, 1811.

"Suddenly and sternly recovering they closed on their terrible enemies, and then  
" was seen with what a strength and majesty the British soldier fights."—  
Napier's "History of the Peninsular War."





hill covered with troops was no jest, as we had no reserves to bring up. At this crisis the words, 'Fall in, Fusiliers' aroused us, and we formed line." Sir William Myers had urged the Divisional Commander to allow the Brigade to counter-attack, and, permission being given, turned to those near and said: "It will be a proud day for the Fusiliers." "Having arrived at the foot of the hill," says Sergeant Cooper, "we began to climb its slope with panting breath." What followed is described in Napier's "Peninsular War":—"Such a gallant line, issuing from the midst of the smoke, and rapidly separating itself from the confused and broken multitude, startled the enemy's heavy masses, which were increasing and pressing onwards as to an assumed victory; they wavered, hesitated, and then vomiting forth a storm of fire, hastily endeavoured to enlarge their front, while a fearful discharge of grape from all the artillery whistled through the British ranks. Myers was killed; Cole and the three Colonels, Ellis, Blakeney, and Hawkshaw, fell wounded; and the Fusilier Battalions, struck by the iron tempest, reeled and staggered like sinking ships. Suddenly and sternly recovering, they closed on their terrible enemies, and then was seen with what a strength and majesty the British soldier fights. In vain did Soult, by voice and gesture, animate his Frenchmen; in vain, did the hardiest veterans, extricating themselves from the crowded columns, sacrifice their lives for the mass to open out on such a fair field; in vain, did the mass itself bear up, and fiercely striving, fire indiscriminately upon friends and foes, while the horsemen, hovering upon the flank, threaten to charge the advancing line. Nothing could stop that astonishing infantry. No sudden burst of undisciplined valour, no nervous enthusiasm weakened the stability of their order; their flashing eyes were bent on the dark columns in their front; their measured tread shook the ground; their dreadful volleys swept away the head of every formation; their deafening shouts overpowered the dissonant cries that broke from all parts of the tumultuous crowd, as foot by foot, and with a horrid carnage, it was driven by the incessant vigour of the attack to the farthest edge of the hill. In vain, did the French reserves, joining with the struggling multitude, endeavour to sustain the fight; their efforts only increased the irremediable confusion, and the mighty mass, giving way like a loosened cliff, went headlong down the ascent. The rain flowed after in streams discoloured with blood, and fifteen hundred unwounded men, the remnant of six thousand unconquerable British soldiers, stood triumphant on the fatal hill."

As a result, the British guns, lost earlier in the day, were retaken by the Royal Fusiliers, as also the Regimental Colour of the Buffs, which was restored to them. Sergeant Gough, of the 2nd Battalion, who recovered the Colour, was afterwards granted a commission.

The casualties recorded include, among others :—

				<i>Officers.</i>		<i>Other Ranks.</i>		<i>Total.</i>	
				<i>K.</i>	<i>W.</i>	<i>K.</i>	<i>W.</i>		
Bufs	...	...	...	4	14	212	234	464	} Brigade that met the French attack.
Middlesex	...	...	...	2	21	87	318	428	
Northampton	...	...	...	7	23	116	276	422	
Worcesters	...	...	...	5	12	75	232	324	
Royal Fusiliers (two Bns.)	...	...	...	3	28	112	563	706	} Fusilier Brigade which counter- attacked.
R. Welch Fusiliers	...	...	...	2	11	74	245	332	

In consequence of their heavy losses the two Battalions of the Royal Fusiliers were joined into one, and the staff of the 2nd Battalion sent home to raise a new battalion.

After Albuhera there was some indecisive fighting and, the French having been strongly reinforced, Wellington withdrew the British Army into Portugal.

Early in 1812, however, he advanced again and took the two fortresses of Ciudad Rodrigo and Badajos by storm. The 1812 Fusilier Brigade, though taking part in the Siege of Ciudad Rodrigo, did not carry out the actual assault. Both the Royal Fusiliers and the Royal Welch Fusiliers suffered casualties, but for some inexplicable reason, neither has been granted the battle honour.

The Storming of Badajos (April 6th, 1812) has been described as the bloodiest assault the British Army ever took part in, though probably, since the Great War, this statement requires modification. The walls were escalated with ladders as the breaches made by the artillery were not practicable. The heaviest fighting fell to the Light and 4th Divisions, in the latter of which was the Fusilier Brigade. Wellington had ordered the withdrawal of these two Divisions when two other divisions succeeded at another point and Badajos fell.

This battle honour was won by the Royal Fusiliers at a cost of 6 officers killed and 12 wounded, 50 other ranks killed, and 147 wounded. Among the severely wounded was the Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Colonel Blakeney, who had also been wounded at Albuhera.

Having captured the two great frontier fortresses, Wellington advanced into Spain, and the Battle of Salamanca was fought (July 3rd, 1812). This battle was, to some extent, a chance affair, but there are few finer examples of a commander punishing the undue rashness of his opponent. In the course of the operations, previous to the battle, Marmont, the French General, had outwitted Wellington who decided to retire. Marmont, fearing the British Army would escape him, pushed forward his leading divisions to intercept the supposed retreat. Wellington, seeing his chance, struck at these isolated divisions and crushed them. The 4th Division led the attack. The Fusiliers were

in the front line; they stormed and carried a height upon which the French had thirty guns, and of these they captured eighteen. Then the retirement of a Portuguese brigade, and the late arrival of the 6th Division, placed the victory in jeopardy. The French, perceiving the situation of the 4th Division, counter-attacked with superior numbers, and the guns were retaken. When the 6th Division at last came into action the fight was restored. "Thus succoured, the Fusiliers again formed line, and dashed at the heights, and the corresponding efforts of the other troops being successful, the enemy broke and fled."

Salamanca, in which the Royal Fusilier casualties totalled 200, added another battle honour to the Colours.

Napoleon, instead of being in a position to send reinforcements to Spain, was obliged to call on his defeated Marshals for troops. In 1812 he had embarked on the ambitious scheme to invade Russia, which proved his downfall. The ill-fated and celebrated "Retreat from Moscow" took place in the severe Russian winter. Not 60,000 men out of 600,000, who composed the "Grande Armée," struggled back to France, the most complete disaster in history. Emboldened by Napoleon's Russian disaster, Prussia and Austria once more declared war, and their armies began to converge on France.

Wellington meanwhile drove a French army through the north of Spain and defeated it at Vittoria (June, 21st 1813), capturing every gun and wagon it possessed. A writer describing the battle, says: "For their steady deportment on the actual battlefield, the Royal Fusiliers won loud praise, but the stern discipline of the Regiment, that mighty power that led it up the heights of Albuhera, won greater praise when it carried the Fusiliers through the heaps of treasure with which the wreck of the plunder of Spain had strewed their path, without a single man leaving the ranks, and carried them on in restless pursuit of the rapidly dissolving army they had so completely defeated. With singular good fortune the Royal Fusiliers emerged from this, one of the most decisive battles of the world, with an utterly insignificant loss. The casualties consisted of two killed and two wounded." It added, however, a well deserved battle honour.

Wellington then prepared to invade France and advanced on the fortresses covering the frontier between Spain and France. The French, under Marshal Soult, made desperate efforts to save the fortresses and prevent the invasion of France. Fierce fighting took place in the Pyrenees, the mountainous country on the border. The Royal Fusiliers were with Wellington throughout and, in the actions which the honour "Pyrenees" represents, lost 1 officer killed, and 10 wounded, 52 other ranks killed and 187 wounded.

At the siege of St. Sebastian, volunteers were called for by Wellington

—"men who could show other troops how to mount a breach." The Royal Fusiliers were allowed to furnish 1 officer, 1 sergeant, 1 corporal and 20 fusiliers. Lieutenant Hutchinson claimed the command by the reason of seniority, and on that ground alone obtained it. As regards the non-commissioned officers, Sergeant Cooper relates: "In a few minutes ten sergeants and Old Styles volunteered as stormers. We assembled at the Colours and drew lots. Sergeant James Leners got the prize, went, and fell wounded. Old Styles also drew a prize; he marched with the stormers next morning and fell severely wounded, by a musket ball through the knee joint, in the breach. The old veteran was taken to hospital and told that his leg must be amputated next morning, but when the doctors came Jack said that he and his leg should not be parted. The medical men left him and his leg mended in a contracted state, and when strong he joined in France. He was a cripple, but did his duty as before, and was present afterwards in the battles of Orthes and Toulouse."

The British Army entered France in 1814. "The battered condition of the veterans, whose hardy valour led them victorious from 1814 the early struggle at Talavera, up the bloody heights of Albuhera, and through the fiery breach of Badajos to the plains of France, was well depicted when the Royal Fusiliers unfurled their Colours on these memorable days. Lieutenant Nantes, his arm in a sling from the compound fracture it had received at Salamanca, carried the Regimental Colour; while the King's Colour was borne by Lieutenant Healey, in the only hand that remained to him after the terrible night that gave Badajos to the British, and immortal fame to those who won it."

Wellington, after a victory at Orthes (February 27th, 1814), where the Royal Fusiliers obtained another honour at a cost of 66 casualties, captured Bordeaux and finally defeated Marshal Soult at the battle of Toulouse (April 14th, 1814). This and "Peninsula," which covers the whole campaign, complete the eleven battle honours which are carried on the Colours of the Royal Fusiliers to commemorate their services in the Napoleonic Wars.









THE ROYAL FUZILEERS or 7th REGIMENT OF FOOT, 1812—16.

Lieutenants.

Field Officer.

Fuzileer.

Colour-Sergeant.

## CHAPTER VII

### NAPOLEONIC WARS (*concluded*), 1814-15.

Battle of Leipzig—Surrender of Napoleon—His escape from Elba—Fusiliers go to America—War with U.S.A.—Fusiliers at New Orleans—Burning of City of Washington—Duel between H.M.S. *Shannon* and the *Chesapeake*—Waterloo—Napoleon sent a prisoner to St. Helena—Fusiliers in France—Disbandment of the 2nd Battalion.

THE Russians, Austrians, and Prussians had meanwhile occupied Paris, after inflicting a crushing defeat on Napoleon at the Battle of 1814 Leipzig. Napoleon surrendered to the Allies, and was sent to the Island of Elba, in the Mediterranean, where he was allowed to live in regal state, and where it was thought he would be safely out of harm's way. Freed from the tyrant, who had been responsible for twenty-five years of continuous struggle, Europe looked to a lasting peace in which to recover. The Allied Armies moved back to their own countries in the firm belief that France was vanquished finally.

A year later Europe was staggered with the news that Napoleon had escaped from Elba and landed in the south of France. Later he entered Paris, acclaimed by the whole French nation, and was joined by the majority of his former Marshals and the Army.

In the interval before Napoleon's escape from Elba, England was still involved in another war, against her late colonies—the United States of America. American trade had suffered severely by British naval action during the war with France, and Napoleon succeeded in stirring up feeling, as the Americans owed their independence largely to French assistance. War had been declared in 1812 when the Americans attempted to invade Canada, but had been defeated.

With Napoleon more or less a prisoner at Elba, England had troops to spare for this war.

The 1st Bn. Royal Fusiliers had returned to England from France in June, 1814, "where, after an absence of seven eventful and exciting years from their native country, to which they had given both the glory and advantages of constant victory, they were greeted with the acclamations of their admiring countrymen, who assembled in crowds to testify their welcome to the gallant troops who had won such imperishable honour." In July it joined the 2nd Battalion at Portsmouth, the latter having been brought over from Jersey, where it had been stationed since

November, 1811. But the two Battalions were not destined to remain together for long, for, three months later, the 1st Battalion received orders to embark for service in America.

On January 1st, 1815, a fleet of transports containing the 1st Bn. Royal Fusiliers, under Colonel Blakeney, and the 43rd (Oxford 1815 and Bucks) Light Infantry anchored at the mouth of the Mississippi. The object of the expedition was to reinforce the troops then engaged in operations against New Orleans.

The American position was defended by a line of entrenchments extending from the river to an impenetrable wood. In this line the principal battery was called the "Crescent" battery. The attack was ordered for January 8th. The light companies of the Royal Fusiliers and the 93rd Regiment and a company of the 43rd were to storm the battery, and the remaining companies of the Royal Fusiliers and 43rd were to be in reserve. The arrangements appear to have been lamentable. "With a gallant rush the light companies assailed the Crescent battery, but without the means of passing the ditch and scaling the parapet, their attack was greatly weakened. Yet they pressed on, and at last entered the place through an embrasure the moment after the gun had been fired. Such progress, additionally impeded by the deadly rifles of scores of Kentucky riflemen, was costly and precious. Yet the assailants carried the battery, but they could not hold it, for they, too, were without support, and out of the three companies of 240 men nearly 180 were down, killed and wounded. The attack failed, although gallantry enough had been expended on it to render it the most brilliant success. But it was not gallantry so much as combined efforts that were wanted."

An officer of the Regiment wrote: "While formed within grape range we were lost in amazement at not being led on to the attack, being kept as quiet as spectators of the onslaught."

"The Fusiliers had to mourn the loss of their revered Colonel, Sir Edward Pakenham, and they had lost him, not in victory, but in disaster."

The total loss of the Battalion was 2 officers, 1 sergeant and 23 fusiliers killed, and 4 officers, 5 sergeants and 62 fusiliers wounded, practically all in the light company.

The British General decided to withdraw the following day, and re-embarkation on the ships was not interfered with by the Americans.

This unfortunate defeat at New Orleans was redeemed by the brilliant success of another British force, under General Ross, which landed in Maryland, defeated the Americans at Bladensburg, and burnt Washington, the capital of the United States.

Shortly afterwards further operations were stopped by the treaty of peace.

There was a little naval fighting in this war. The Americans did

not possess a fleet, but had a few frigates, or cruisers. These were slightly more powerful than the British ships of the same class. As a result, in three successive actions between single British and American frigates the British ship was sunk or captured.

This was a thing that neither the French nor Spanish had ever succeeded in doing, and it put the British Navy on its mettle. A historic duel between two ships resulted. Captain Brooke, in H.M.S. *Shannon*, marked down the most famous and larger American frigate *Chesapeake* (Captain Lawrence) in Boston Harbour. He sent in and challenged the *Chesapeake* to come out and fight. Captain Lawrence agreed. The people of Boston, thinking success certain, prepared a banquet to give the victors on their return. The *Chesapeake* sailed out, escorted as far as the harbour entrance by pleasure boats decorated with American flags. Fifteen minutes after the first gun had been fired, Captain Lawrence and many of his crew had been killed and the *Chesapeake* captured. A few years ago the *Chesapeake's* ensign was sold in London. It was bought by an American, who generously gave it to the R.U.S.I. Museum, where it now is.

Hardly had peace been signed when the Royal Fusiliers were ordered to embark for England, on account of the crisis caused by Napoleon's escape from Elba.

As soon as the news of Napoleon's arrival in France became known, Austrian, Russian and Prussian Armies were mobilized and began to advance on Paris. A British Army under Wellington landed in Belgium, and was joined by a Dutch-Belgian force.

Napoleon decided to strike at the Allies individually, before they could unite. The Russian and Austrian Armies were still far away. The English and Prussian Armies were near and in touch with each other, though they had not actually united. Suddenly and unexpectedly Napoleon's army appeared at the point of junction between the English and Prussians. On June 15th, 1815, Napoleon defeated the Prussians, under Blücher, at Ligny; while a detachment under Marshal Ney held off Wellington at Quatre Bras.

Napoleon detailed a force, under Marshal Grouchy, to follow up the beaten Prussians, and turned in superior force to attack Wellington. Wellington fell back from Quatre Bras and took up a defensive position at Waterloo.

Wellington decided to fight at Waterloo on the distinct understanding that the Prussians under Blücher would come to his assistance. Blücher did not fail him. The Prussians, after their defeat at Ligny, retreated by a road which brought them nearer to Waterloo; while the pursuing French, under Marshal Grouchy, were marching in the wrong direction in the belief that the main Prussian Army was in front of them.



On the morning of June 18th, 1815, Napoleon attacked at Waterloo, thinking he would only have to deal with Wellington. One-third of Wellington's army—the Dutch-Belgians—fled without firing a shot, and from 9 a.m. till 4.30 p.m. 40,000 British troops withstood the continuous attacks of 70,000 Frenchmen. About 4.30 p.m. fresh troops were seen approaching the French right flank. Napoleon at first thought they were Marshal Grouchy's detachment, which he had sent for. To his dismay, they proved to be Blücher's Prussians. He made one last desperate effort to break the British force before they could make themselves felt. His famous Imperial Guard, which had never known defeat, were hurled at the British centre. They were repulsed and Wellington counter-attacked. The French broke and were pursued by the Prussians. With his army dispersed and himself a fugitive, Napoleon, fearing to fall into Prussian hands, made for the coast and surrendered to a British warship, *H.M.S. Bellerophon*.

The Allies decided to send him, a prisoner, to the Island of St. Helena, a small island in mid-Atlantic whence escape would be impossible. He died there a prisoner in 1821.

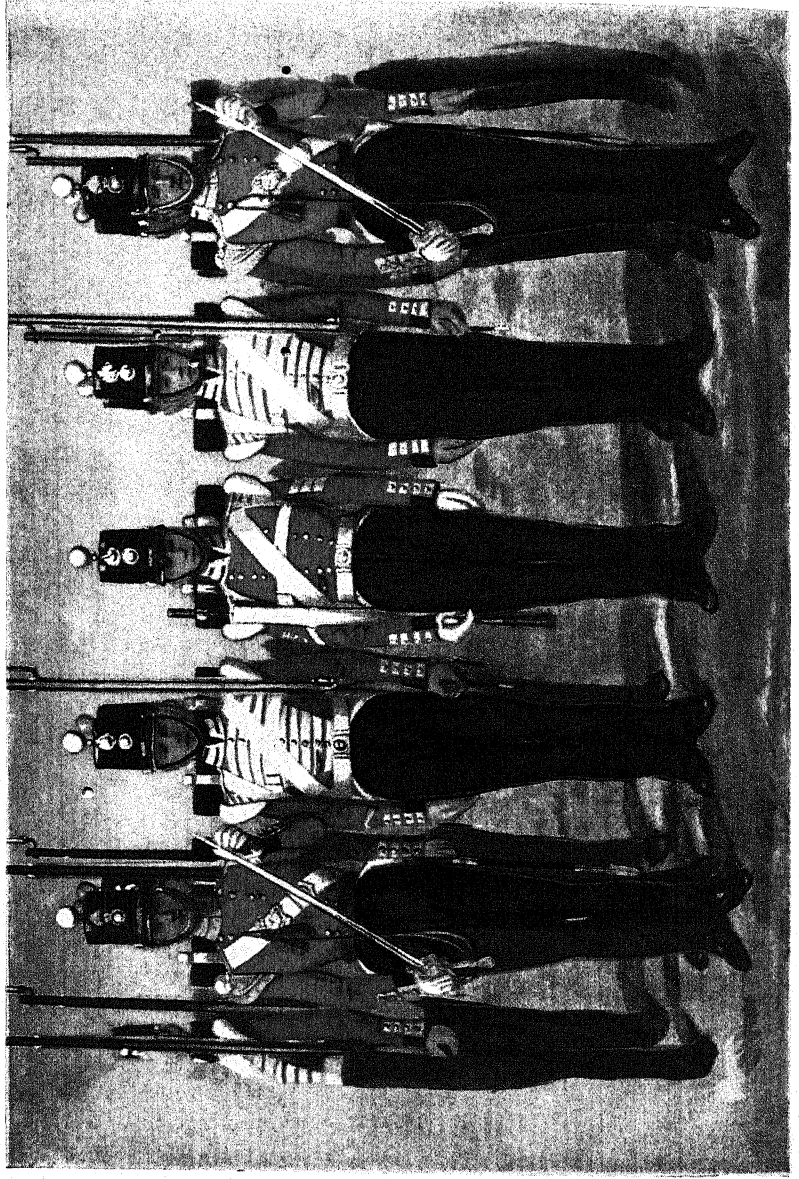
Thus ended the most celebrated character in history. The son of a Corsican farmer, he made himself Emperor of France and King of Italy. He brought the Pope a prisoner from Rome to Paris to officiate at his coronation. He deposed kings and princes and put his brother and his marshals in their places. He dominated and terrorized Europe for some fifteen years, and would have ruled the world but for the British Navy. In military history he stands by himself without equal.

The Royal Fusiliers did not arrive in time to be present at Waterloo. They landed at Ostend on the very day the battle was fought. They joined the British Army and took part in the advance on Paris. Later, with their old comrades, the Royal Welch Fusiliers and 43rd (Oxford and Bucks) Light Infantry, they formed a Brigade in the Army of Occupation.

As a result of the final defeat of Napoleon, and the consequent peace, there was a reduction of the Army. The 2nd Bn. Royal Fusiliers was disbanded in 1816.







THE ROYAL FUSILIERS or 7th REGIMENT OF FOOT, 1854.

## CHAPTER VIII

### THE CRIMEAN WAR.

Small wars, 1815 to 1854—Causes of Crimean War—Plan of campaign—Varna—Fusiliers first troops to land on Crimea—"Alma"—"Balaclava"—Battle of Inkerman—The winter of 1854-55—First assault of Sevastopol: Death of Colonel Lacy Yea—Second assault of Sevastopol: French success—Russians evacuate the fortress—Peace—Institution of the V.C.—Note: The Colour incident at the Alma.

DURING the remaining years of George III's reign, throughout the reigns of George IV and William IV, and the early years of Queen Victoria, the British Navy and Army were actively employed only in small wars, connected mainly with consolidation of the Empire.

The better-known of these are:—

Place	...	Year.	...	Remarks.
Burma	...	1824 and 1852	...	—
Aden	...	1839	...	Aden became a British possession.
Afghanistan	...	1842	...	—
China	...	1842	...	Hong-Kong became a British possession.
Scinde	...	1843	...	Battle of Meanee: Scinde added to British India.
Sutlej	...	1845 and 1849	...	Sikh Wars: Punjab added to British India.
New Zealand	...	1846	...	First Maori War.
South Africa	...	1835, 1846 and 1851	...	—

The long period of peace was broken by the Crimean War. England and France intervened on behalf of Turkey against Russia. **1854** The real cause of the war was Russia's attempt to improve her position at the expense of the decaying Turkish Empire. A glance at the map will show that European Russia has few outlets for sea trade. In the extreme north her few ports are ice-bound for many months. In the Baltic her ports are, in a lesser degree, also ice-bound, and her ships have to pass the narrow straits north of Denmark to reach the main trade routes. The Baltic would be practically a "closed sea" to Russian ships during a war against a maritime power. In the south—Black Sea—her position is worse. Her sea-borne trade has to pass into the Mediterranean through the Bosphorus and Dardanelles. Free access to the Mediterranean was the ambition of Russia, which could only be gratified at the expense of Turkey. The immediate excuse for

war was a quarrel over the rights of Christians in the Holy places in Palestine. Neither England nor France wished to see Russia holding Constantinople and the Dardanelles thus allowing a Russian fleet from the Black Sea to become a menace to their interests in the Mediterranean. Therefore, when a Russian army invaded Turkish territory, England and France were drawn into the war.

English and French armies landed at Varna, on the Black Sea, to assist the Turks, but the Russian Army, having met with no success, had already withdrawn.

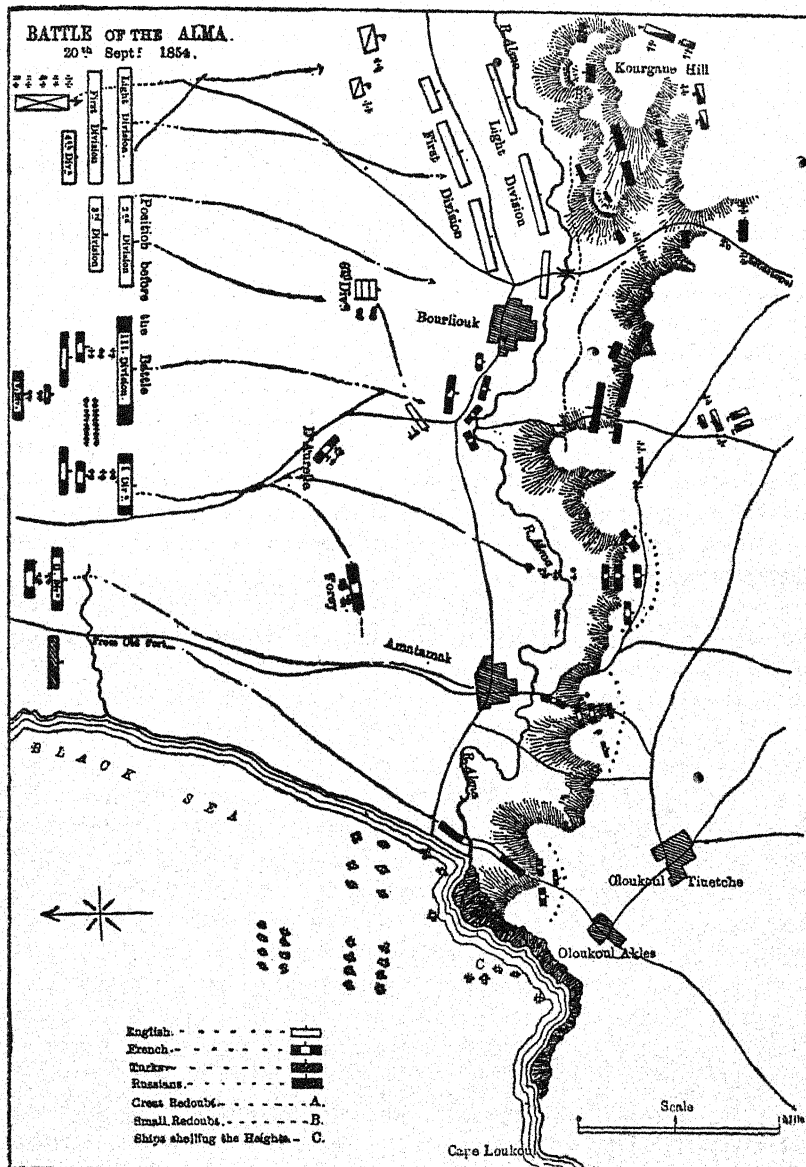
For want of a better plan the Allies then decided to carry on the war against Russia by naval operations in the Baltic and by land operations in the Crimean Peninsula. The great naval fortress in the Black Sea—Sevastopol—appeared to offer an objective, the capture of which would be much felt in Russia.

The Royal Fusiliers, commanded by Lieut.-Colonel Lacy Yea, were brigaded with their old comrades, the 23rd Royal Welch Fusiliers, 1854 and the 33rd Regiment (Duke of Wellington's), in the Light Division. All three battalions suffered severely from cholera and malaria while in the Varna district.

The disembarkation of the Allied Armies, in the Crimea, began on September 14th, 1854, a company of the Royal Fusiliers being the first troops to land.

On September 19th the advance towards Sevastopol commenced and, on the following day, the Allies came in sight of the formidable position held by the Russians on the heights above the little River Alma (September 20th, 1854).

"For a time the British were lying idle under the fire of the Russian guns, awaiting the success of the French, who were making a flank attack on the right, but, as the shot began to carry casualties into the ranks, it is said that Lord Raglan (the Commander-in-Chief) became impatient and ordered the advance. Lacy Yea led his Regiment across the Alma and was for a moment checked by the high bank on the Russian side of the river. Discovering a place of ascent, he pushed his horse to the top of the bank, shouting to the Regiment 'Never mind forming; come on men, come on anyhow.' Up on the bank, immediately responsive to the call, rose the Colours of the Regiment. Scarcely a moment elapsed before both officers were hit. Smitten heavily by the tremendous showers of grape with which the Russians swept the crest of the ridge, the Fusiliers followed, promptly responding to the call of their chief and the lead of the Colours. During the first period of the advance one of the wounded officers carrying the Colours was unable to take post in line, and the eager Fusiliers went forward to the attack with a Colour absent, but it was never lost; it was only missing for a moment





before it was brought to the front and borne forward with the Regiment.\*

"Then the Russians pushed forward columns of infantry to stop the rush on the batteries, and no sooner had the Royal Fusiliers found themselves ready to advance than their path was stopped by a column of the Kazan Regiment containing not less than 1,500 veteran soldiers who, placing themselves between the Fusiliers and the battery, accepted such battle as the Englishmen were prepared to give. They were both Fusilier regiments and both were highly honoured in their country. They both accepted their task with a stern devotion, and the fight they made for the mastery was one of the most terrible in the whole affair."

Thus the close and deadly fight lasted while other regiments of the Light Division carried the battery. The Royal Welch Fusiliers got into the redoubt. Their History relates: "Before the position was reached the officer carrying the Regimental Colour was killed, and Colonel Chester picked it up. He had not gone more than a few yards before he also was struck down, and at the close of the battle the Regimental Colour, with sixteen bullet holes in it, was eventually carried out of action by Sergeant Henry Smith. Ensign Anstruther, carrying the Queen's Colour, was the first to reach the redoubt. He was killed as he topped the parapet."

In the confusion, many Royal Fusiliers became detached from the Regiment and fought with other corps; one of them, Corporal Pye, particularly distinguished himself. He joined the Royal Welch and, accompanying that battalion into the battery, he assisted Captain Bell to seize the only gun that was captured in position that day. What followed is quoted from the "History of the Royal Welch Fusiliers":—"The Russians counter-attacked with 3,000 men of the Vladimir Regiment, and unfortunately a mounted officer, believed to have been one of the Staff, shouted, 'The column is French; for God's sake, don't fire.' The enemy poured a volley into our troops, and six officers of the 23rd fell on the spot. Next came an order by bugle to retire, which was taken up all down the line. At first, the remaining officers of the 23rd decided to go back. . . . The redoubt fell into the hands of the Russians once more. As the sorely tried Light Division retired down the slope . . . they met the 1st Division advancing to support them. They rallied, and formed the second line in the recapture of the redoubt. This being the key of the position, the Russians began to withdraw all along the line."

But during all this time the Royal Fusiliers had stood firm. In the words of Kinglake, the historian of the war, "When the storming battalions came down the Regiment was fighting still, when along the whole line of the Allies there was no other regiment fighting, Lacy Yea

\* See "Colour Incident at the Alma" at end of chapter.



THE BATTLE OF THE ALMA, SEPTEMBER 20th, 1854. •



and his people were still at their work. When Evans, having crossed the river, was leading his three battalions to the site of the Causeway batteries, it was the 7th Fusiliers that stood alone on his left ; and nearly at the very time when disaster befell the centre of the Brigade of Guards, Lacy Yea and his Fusiliers were gathering at last the reward of their soldierly virtue."

"The resolute stand made by the Royal Fusiliers was unquestionably one of the causes of the success of the action. When the broken regiments which had stormed the batteries had retired for re-formation, and before the supports could be brought into action, the field of battle would have been clear and in possession of the Russians had not the Fusiliers, holding before them the immense Russian column, formed a *point d'appui*, upon which the 1st and 3rd Divisions could continue the attack. . . ." Two drums of the Kazan Regiment are held as trophies by the 1st Battalion.

The losses in the Brigade, considering the severity of the fighting, were not high.

		Officers.		Other Ranks.	
		Killed.	Wounded.	Killed.	Wounded.
Royal Fusiliers	...	2	11	42	168
Royal Welch Fusiliers...		8	5	45	152
33rd Regiment	...	1	6	55	177

The success was not followed up, and the Russian Army withdrew, unmolested, into the Sevastopol defences.

The Allies, having failed to capture the fortress, settled down to besiege it. Matters went badly for them. In the long years of peace the British Army had lost the art of looking after itself. The troops suffered heavily from disease. The supply services were thoroughly bad.

The Allied Army was at this time only investing the southern part of the defences. A Russian Army issued from Sevastopol, outside the British right, and descended on the British line of communication, with the object of seizing Balaklava, the British base, some six miles in rear of the British lines.

Balaklava was occupied by the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, a few Turkish troops, and the British Heavy and Light Cavalry Brigades, some 1,500 sabres. The situation was saved by a charge of the Heavy Brigade, which stopped the Russian advance for a short time and allowed reinforcements to be hurried up. Shortly afterwards, through an unfortunate mistake, the Light Brigade was ordered to charge the whole Russian Army. The gallant but useless "Charge of the Six Hundred," which actually succeeded in cutting down Russian gunners at their guns, is an epic in British military history. Of the 600 who rode in the charge, not 300 got back (October 25th, 1854). Balaklava, the base, was saved, but the Russians remained in position on the British right.



Encouraged by this success, the Russians, who now outnumbered the Allies, decided on another attack. On the foggy morning of November 5th, 1854, 40,000 Russians issued from Sevastopol and surprised the troops in the trenches. The few men on duty in the trenches behaved with unexampled heroism. As each regiment came up from the camp it was hurried into action, without any regard to brigades or divisions, and, indeed, in many cases men were found fighting in groups under officers of different regiments. From the fact that the sudden attack of the Russians and the difficulty of locating the troops in the fog made it impossible to make any plan or send out orders for the fight, the Battle of Inkerman is known as "the Soldiers' Battle."

Later in the day French reinforcements began to arrive, and the Russians withdrew from the scene of slaughter. 48,000 British soldiers, reinforced later by 7,000 Frenchmen, defeated 40,000 Russians after inflicting 10,000 casualties.

The Royal Fusiliers and the 23rd and 33rd were not as heavily engaged as were the troops on some other parts of the line; but such portions of them as were not then in the trenches were involved in severe fighting covering the left of the 2nd Division. The casualties of the Royal Fusiliers were 5 officers and 49 other ranks wounded and 13 killed.

The Siege of Sevastopol continued throughout the winter—one of the coldest on record. No preparations had been made for a campaign under such conditions. The troops were without warm clothing, food was short, transport animals died and rations had to be carried from the base to the line—a distance of six miles—by fatigue parties.

In January, 1855, out of 25,000 British troops, 13,000 were in hospital. It was during this period that Florence Nightingale, "The Lady with the Lamp," went out with volunteer nurses, and originated what is now Q.A.I.M.N.S.

The state of affairs is graphically illustrated by the casualty lists: for every man who fell in action or as a result of wounds, not less than six died of disease. Never probably has the British soldier given a finer example of discipline and indomitable courage than in the manner he faced uncomplainingly the sufferings of the Crimean winter of 1854-55.

By the summer of 1855 matters had improved. The French Army had increased to 100,000 and the British to 40,000.

On June 18th the first attempt was made to assault the defences of Sevastopol. "The right assaulting column was furnished by the 7th, 23rd, 33rd and 34th Regiments, under Colonel Lacy Yea, and was to advance against the left face of the Redan." The attack must have been a forerunner of an unsuccessful trench to trench attack in the Great War. "Want of success was not due to lack of bravery and



determination. The moment the men got out of the trench they were met with a deliberate and well-aimed fire."

Colonel Lacy Yea's body was found near the enemy entanglement by stretcher-bearers sent out, during a short armistice, to bring in dead and wounded. It was written of him: "Under occasional brusqueness of manner he concealed a most kind heart; and a more thorough soldier, one more devoted to his men, to the Service, and to his country, never fell in battle than Lacy Yea."

On September 8th a second assault was delivered. Again the Royal Fusiliers participated in an unsuccessful attack on the Redan. The French attack, however, carried an important work, the "Malakoff." The Russians evacuated the fortress. Soon afterwards peace favourable to the Allies was made.

It was during the Crimean War that the Victoria Cross was instituted. The Royal Fusiliers received five, the only other regiment receiving a like number being the Scots Guards. The names of the recipients were :—

Captain Henry Mitchell Jones.

Lieutenant William Hope.

Assistant-Surgeon Thomas Egerton Hale.

Private Mather Hughes.

Private William Norman.

The Royal Fusiliers' casualties in action were :—Officers, 9 killed and 22 wounded; other ranks, 174 killed and 381 wounded. To these must be added some 390, all ranks, who died of disease. The percentage of deaths from disease was small compared with most regiments. This must be attributed largely to the attention, exertion and foresight of Colonel Lacy Yea and the discipline of all ranks.

On June 27th, 1856, the Royal Fusiliers embarked for England, and on arrival were sent to "the newly-formed camp" at Aldershot.

The war added "Alma," "Inkerman," and "Sevastopol" to the Colours.

#### NOTE—THE COLOUR INCIDENT AT THE ALMA.

The Wheater History of the Regiment states :—

"The eager Fusiliers went forward to the attack with a Colour absent, but it was never lost; it was only missing for a moment before it was brought to the front and borne forward with the Regiment."

A footnote adds :—"This statement is made in contradiction of a statement made by Dr. Russell, in his letter to *The Times*, to the effect that a Colour was lost. Colonel Hibbert, the authority for the contradiction, remembers perfectly that in the confusion of the first formation

both the wounded officers were not instantaneously relieved, but both Colours were in front by the time the Regiment was making its general advance."

The 23rd Royal Welch Fusiliers History states :—

" During the action the Regimental Colour of the 7th Fusiliers was found lying on the ground by Captain Pearson of that Regiment, A.D.C. to Sir George Brown, Commanding the Light Division. He picked it up, and no officer of the 7th being near, General Codrington (Brigade Commander) desired him to give it to Captain Bell (temporarily Commanding 23rd Royal Welch Fusiliers), observing, ' It cannot be in safer keeping than that of the Royal Welch.' The Colour was accordingly placed between those of the 23rd and was carried by a sergeant of the 7th during the remainder of the action."

Dr. Russell, *The Times* correspondent, writing of Colonel Lacy Yea after his death, states : " At the Alma he never went back a step, and there were tears in his eyes on that eventful afternoon as he exclaimed to me, when the men had formed upon the slope of the hill after the retreat of the enemy, ' There, look there ! That's all that remains of my poor Fusiliers ! A Colour's missing, but, thank God, no Russians have it !'"

Kinglake, in Vol. II, Chap. xvi, says : " For some time one of the Colours of the Regiment was missing, but it did not at any time fall into the hands of the enemy. It was safe in the charge of some soldiers belonging to the Royal Welch."

Readers must draw their own conclusions from the above four statements. One thing is clear, however—no Colour was lost.

The same Colour pikes are still carried by the 1st Battalion.

## CHAPTER IX

### INDIAN MUTINY—AFGHAN WAR AND EVENTS TO 1898.

Causes of Indian Mutiny—Breaks out at Meerut, May 10th, 1857—Delhi—Massacre of Cawnpore—Lucknow—Siege of Delhi—Central India—Abolition of East India Company—Fusiliers go to India for the first time—2nd Battalion re-raised—Small wars to 1898—1st Battalion in Umbeyla Campaign, 1863—2nd Battalion in Afghan War: Defence of Kandahar—Reorganization of the British Army—Cardwell system—Army Reserve—Volunteers—Militia—Territorial Force.

THE Crimean War was hardly over when the "Sepoy Mutiny" broke out in India. In previous pages some reference has been made to 1857 the foundation and expansion of British power in India. In 1857 practically the whole country, as now, was under British control. The administrative power was vested in the East India Company, though there was a Governor-General appointed by the Crown.

There were a few Queen's troops serving in India. The vast majority of the troops, however, were raised and maintained by the Company itself. The Company's Army included three regiments of European Cavalry and some six battalions of European Infantry, recruited in England. The remaining cavalry, artillery, and infantry were natives, commanded by British officers who held commissions from the Company.

The expansion of British power and administration had resulted in a number of princes and chiefs being deprived of their lands or in having their power curtailed, thus preventing the tyranny and misgovernment which had existed for centuries. This led to much intrigue and conspiracy, especially in Central India. Many of the remaining princes and chiefs viewed the action of the Government authorities with distrust and resentment.

The discontented found in the Native Army excellent ground for sowing seeds of trouble. The intriguers worked on the feeling of the troops, who had no incentive beyond their pay to keep them loyal. They pointed out that there were six times as many native soldiers as white soldiers in India, and that no reinforcements were available as the English Army had been practically destroyed in the Crimea. They stated that the cartridges, issued for the new rifle just introduced to replace the musket, were covered either in pig or cattle grease, thus, both Mohammedan and Hindoo alike would be polluted. This they said, was a plot to destroy their religion and turn them into Christians. Finally, they

called to mind an old prophecy that British rule in India would only last for one hundred years after the Battle of Plassey, and that period had now expired, and it only required one effort to destroy all the English in India.

The Great Mutiny broke out at Meerut on May 10th, 1857. In addition to the large native garrison in cantonments, there were two Queen's regiments—The Carabiniers (6th Dragoon Guards) and a battalion of 60th Rifles. The outbreak was planned for the Sunday morning when it was thought the British troops would be in church without their rifles. This is the reason why, since then, British troops in India always go on church parade with rifles and ammunition.

By an extraordinary piece of luck, on this particular Sunday, church parade was cancelled. The foiled mutineers, after murdering their own officers and any white women and children they could find, cleared out of Meerut and made for Delhi to induce the regiments there to join them.

Unfortunately they were not pursued, and the following day they reached Delhi. They were joined by the regiments in that place, who murdered their officers and any European men, women, and children. There was no British regiment at Delhi, but an arsenal and magazine were in charge of a few British officers and non-commissioned officers. These brave men defended the magazine for a time and then blew it, and themselves, up to prevent it falling into the hands of the mutineers.

The walled city of Delhi was the old capital of the Mogul Emperors. Their descendant, an imbecile old man, stripped of all power, still lived in the fort a pensioner of the East India Company. The mutineers, to rally Mohammedans to them, proclaimed him as Emperor. The mutiny spread quickly, and in two months over forty garrisons murdered their officers and many European women and children, and joined the rebellion.

These pages can only touch on the principal events. At Cawnpore a handful of British soldiers, with some three hundred women and children, including the families of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, defended themselves in an entrenched camp. After a month's siege in the Indian hot weather, with little food, they accepted the promise of the rebel leader, Nana Sahib—an educated native who had been to England and spoke English fluently—that they should have a safe conduct to Allahabad. When they came out of their defences and embarked in the boats which were to take them down the river to Allahabad, they were treacherously fired on. The men and many women and children were massacred. The remaining women and children were taken and placed in a house near by. Meanwhile, a small British force, under General Havelock, was approaching Cawnpore, and defeated the rebels opposing it. When the news of Havelock's victorious advance reached Nana Sahib he caused the unfortunate women and



children to be hacked to pieces by butchers. Their bodies, some still breathing, were thrown into the well of the house.

Lucknow, the capital of the Province of Oude, was also the scene of a gallant defence and fierce fighting. The Europeans, including many women and children, were besieged in the Residency. The garrison consisted mainly of the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry, and also included the boys of a local European school. The story of the siege is a most thrilling one, and should be read by all Britishers. After three months Havelock's column, with supplies, cut its way through, and joined the garrison.

Havelock's force, however, only numbered 3,000, and there were some 40,000 rebels round Lucknow. After a further siege of some two months the rebels were defeated, and Lucknow relieved by Sir Colin Campbell, who had arrived from England with reinforcements. The ruins of the Residency at Lucknow stand to-day as a memorial to British courage and power in India. The British flag on the Residency tower is never lowered day or night.

Meanwhile, Delhi, which had become the centre of the Mutiny, held by 30,000 mutineers, was besieged by some 4,000 British troops, a few hundred Gurkhas, and some hastily raised levies from the Punjab, which fortunately remained passive, mainly due to the influence of Sir John Lawrence. After almost incredible deeds of heroism, the small British force carried the fortress by assault.

The final stage of the war was fought in Central India, and the rebellion was crushed finally at the end of 1859. Probably **1859** never has the British soldier fought so ruthlessly. Such scenes as presented themselves to the column which entered Cawnpore after the massacre roused their fiercest passions. Murdered and outraged European women, tortured bodies of men, and dead children, called for a bloody revenge. In a fight no quarter was given; captured leaders were blown from the muzzles of field guns, others were shot or hanged by the hundred. The vengeance of the British Army will never be forgotten in India. After the suppression of the Mutiny the British Government took over the administration from the East India Company, which ceased to exist, and Queen Victoria was proclaimed Empress of India.

As soon as the news of the Mutiny reached England, reinforcements, including the 1st Bn. Royal Fusiliers, were hurried out. This was the first appearance of the Regiment in India, as up to that time it had been exempt from service in the country. The Regiment, however, saw nothing of the fighting, which was nearly over when it arrived. It was moved to the Punjab, where it was imperative that British troops should be maintained to ensure the population remaining passive.



The Indian Mutiny caused an increase in the British Army, and it was at this time that the present 2nd Bn. Royal Fusiliers was raised. It was formed by Lieut.-Colonel Paulett Somerset, late of the Coldstream Guards, at Preston in Lancashire, during September, 1857. It moved to Aldershot in February, 1858, and thence, in April, to Gibraltar.

During the forty years subsequent to the Indian Mutiny the British Army was engaged in a number of small wars. The more important were :—

Numerous expeditions on the Indian Frontier.

1858 China.

1861-5 New Zealand.

1867 Abyssinia.

1877-9 South Africa : Zulu War—Battle of Isandhlwana, where the two battalions of the South Wales Borderers lost 25 officers and 591 other ranks killed.

1878-80 Second Afghan War.

1881 South Africa : First Boer War—Majuba Hill.

1882 Egypt : Bombardment of Alexandria and Battle of Tel-el-Kebir.

1884-5 Sudan : Attempt to save General Gordon at Khartoum.

1885-7 Burma.

1898 Second Sudan Campaign : Battle of Omdurman.

**1863** The Royal Fusiliers took part in two of these. The 1st Battalion served in the Umbeyla Campaign on the North-West Frontier of India, 1863.

The 2nd Battalion, which after serving in Malta, Canada, at Home, and in Ireland, had proceeded to India in 1873, served in the

**1878** Second Afghan War, and gained two honours for the Colours—"Afghanistan, 1879-80" and "Kandahar."

Every soldier has heard of the Indian Frontier—a term synonymous with fighting. It must suffice here to give a rough outline of the reason or policy which has made that locality the scene of so much warfare. The Indian Empire, a peninsula, is, owing to our sea power, only open to attack by land (*i.e.*, Northern Frontier).

The one formidable Power near the Frontier is Russia, whose territory is separated from British India by the independent state of Afghanistan. Russia was, for many years, believed to have designs on India. By many small wars she had extended her southern border, and had built military railways. It was, therefore, considered conducive to the safety of India to have an independent Afghanistan, with its warlike people, mountainous and inhospitable country, as a buffer between Russian and British territories.

The Afghans are, however, themselves an unruly people, and not altogether desirable neighbours. A further step in the policy has been to have a strip of tribal territory as a buffer between Afghanistan and British territory. One or other of these tribes is invariably in trouble on account of raids, etc., into British territory proper. Such a state of affairs demands precautionary military measures at all times, and frequent punitive expeditions.

The Second Afghan War, in which the 2nd Battalion gained its honours, was caused by Russian intrigue. The British Government had no intention of allowing Russian armies to have access to Afghanistan, and thus be nearer the great mountain passes leading to the plains of India than a British army. Neither did it propose to allow the construction of railways to serve as a Russian line of communication for an invasion of India.

When, therefore, Russian intrigue became very apparent, the British Government demanded that the Ameer should sign a treaty which would prevent such proceedings. The Ameer refused, and a British army entered Afghanistan by the historic route, the Khyber Pass, the scene of the disaster in the First Afghan War.

The Ameer fled, and died in Russian territory. His son accepted the treaty, and the British army withdrew to India. Shortly afterwards, however, the British Envoy, with his staff and a small escort, were murdered in the Afghan capital, Kabul. The British Army once more invaded Afghanistan. The Afghan tribes rose in arms and the British forces which had occupied Kabul and Kandahar were attacked. Lord Roberts, who commanded at Kabul, defeated the Afghan Army opposing him.

General Burrows' Army was defeated at the Battle of Maiwand by another Afghan army. The Royal Berkshire Regiment lost most heavily. The survivors from this disaster got back to the defences of Kandahar, where a garrison, including the 2nd Bn. Royal Fusiliers, had been left. Kandahar was besieged. It was eventually  
1880 relieved by Lord Roberts, after several fights, by his famous Kabul—Kandahar march. He defeated the Afghans finally at the Battle of Kandahar.

The 2nd Bn. Royal Fusiliers formed the backbone of the defence of Kandahar and greatly distinguished itself, especially in the sortie on Dehkhoya, when it lost 2 officers killed and 2 wounded; 22 other ranks killed and 28 wounded.

From the conclusion of the Afghan War the Royal Fusiliers saw no further active service until the South African War of 1899.

The paragraphs which follow deal, in outline, with the steps taken to increase and reorganize the land forces of the Crown. As part of the

increase to the Regular Army the Royal Fusiliers received a third battalion in 1898, and was still further augmented by the addition of a fourth battalion raised in 1900.

The location of the different battalions will be found in one or other of the chronological tables at the end of the book, otherwise references to their services are made only where they find place in the historical narrative.

It was during this period that important changes, initiated in 1881, were undertaken in the organization of the British Army.

As a consequence of the increase in Continental armies, due to conscription or universal service, the British Army was considered to be of insufficient strength to safeguard British possessions and interests overseas. An increase on the basis of long service enlistment, the system then in force, was not possible, both on grounds of expense and difficulty of recruiting. The "Cardwell System" of short service was introduced. This system, which is still in force, consisted of enlistment for a limited period with the Colours and for a further period in the Reserve, thus allowing both for a trained reserve on mobilization, and for an increasing number of ex-soldiers, still of military age, among the civil population. In order to meet the requirements of overseas garrisons, which necessitated about half the Regular Army being abroad, the period with the Colours could not be fixed too low. Seven years with the Colours and a further five with the Reserve were decided on, and these terms of enlistment have remained in force, with minor variations, to the present time.

Following the introduction of this system, it was found necessary that Infantry Regiments of the Line should consist of two battalions so as to provide adequately for the "turn-over" by drafts to battalions overseas.

The Royal Fusiliers and Regiments of the Line up to the 25th (King's Own Scottish Borderers) were not affected, as they possessed two battalions, but other regiments were linked or combined in pairs. At the same time, all infantry regiments were given a territorial title in addition to that by which they were already known. The Royal Fusiliers received the additional title of "City of London Regiment," and its depot was established at Hounslow.

A simultaneous step in the reorganization was the linking of the Militia and Volunteers to the Regular Army. Three Militia Battalions—The Royal Westminster, Royal South Middlesex, and Royal London—became Militia Battalions of the Royal Fusiliers, and four battalions of Rifle Volunteers, which had been raised in London in 1860, became Volunteer Battalions of the Royal Fusiliers.

Some years later the war in South Africa disclosed a number of

shortcomings in the organization and training of the Regular Army, Militia, and Volunteers, and as soon as peace was signed, in 1902, steps were taken to remedy them.

The Regular Army at home, with the Reserves, was organized as an Expeditionary Force; the Militia, which previously could not be ordered abroad, was turned into a Special Reserve to feed the Regular Battalions with drafts in time of war; and the Volunteers were organized in Brigades and Divisions for Home Defence, and renamed the "Territorial Force." Under this change the Volunteer Battalions of the Royal Fusiliers became the first four battalions of the London Regiment, though they remained affiliated to the Royal Fusiliers and wore its uniform.

This organization has survived the test of the Great War, the only subsequent alteration being the liability of the Territorial Army to serve abroad in time of war.



OFFICER'S CROSS BELT PLATE, 1818-1830.



## \*CHAPTER X

### SOUTH AFRICAN WAR AND EVENTS UP TO 1914.

Outline of history of the Boers—Causes of war—Original plan of campaign—Ladysmith, Kimberley and Mafeking besieged, and early reverses—Lord Roberts appointed Commander-in-Chief—His plan of campaign—Relief of Kimberley—Paardeberg—Relief of Ladysmith—Relief of Mafeking and action of Rooiberg—Occupation of Pretoria and flight of President Kruger—Guerilla warfare—Peace—Duke of York appointed Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Fusiliers—Boxer Rising in China (1900)—1st Battalion in India : Expedition into Tibet (1904).

THE South African War began in 1899. Before it was brought to a close, three years later, the numbers of British soldiers actually sent to the front were not far short of 400,000, a total four times greater than any previous British army that had taken the field. These numbers included contingents from the great self-governing Dominions and the Colonies ; thus the South African War may be described as the first war of the British Empire.

To give some idea of the causes of the war, it is necessary to refer briefly to the previous history of South Africa.

The Cape of Good Hope had been colonized by the Dutch as far back as 1671. When Holland threw in her lot with France, in 1795, it became a subsidiary base for the French Fleet and, in order to safeguard the route to India, it was occupied by a British force. It was returned to the Dutch by the Peace of 1805, only to be retaken when the war broke out afresh in 1806.

In the course of years many of the Dutch settlers, or Boers, who had never accepted British laws kindly, especially those protecting the natives, had gradually moved, or trekked, north. After numerous wars with native tribes, they had founded two colonies—the Transvaal and Orange River.

The Boers were an agricultural people, living in scattered farms, who only collected in numbers for some special purpose. Thus they had not kept pace with the advance of civilization, and were, in consequence, a narrow and ignorant race. Their resentment of any form of control by the authorities of the British colonies, which bounded them on all sides, led to demands for their total independence. In 1881 these





THE ROYAL FUSILIERS (CITY OF LONDON REGIMENT)  
SOUTH AFRICA, 1899—1902.

Sergeant.

Officer

Private.



demands resulted in some fighting with British troops, including the unfortunate affair of Majuba Hill. The British Government preferred not to face the final issue, and recognized the two Republics—Transvaal and Orange Free State—with certain reservations.

In the years which followed, the discovery of gold and diamonds resulted in powerful mining corporations being formed in the adjacent British colonies, and these corporations gradually extended their activities into the territories of the Republics.

The Boers, however, in their determination to retain the mastery in their own house, refused to grant any civil rights to British or other foreigners. This caused continual friction, which culminated in the notorious Jameson Raid of 1896 and the German Emperor's famous telegram of congratulation to President Kruger on the defeat of the raiders. It then became a question of Briton or Boer, and the latter strained every nerve to equip himself for an effort to drive the British out of South Africa.

The Boers, of the two Republics, also counted on the support of the considerable Boer population resident in the Cape Colony.

Whether or not the war was avoidable or necessary has been the subject of much argument. It must suffice to say that the state of affairs in South Africa was, in 1899, impossible and that the war has been justified by the results. A few years later the two former Republics, together with Natal and the Cape Colony, combined as a great self-governing Dominion, wherein British and Boer had equal rights. The three successive Prime Ministers have been Boers, and former Boer Generals commanded the troops which the Dominion furnished to fight for the Empire in the Great War.

The immediate cause of the war was that, in the late summer of 1899, the military preparations of the two Republics became so menacing as to necessitate the despatch of reinforcements to Natal for the protection of that Colony. President Kruger, of the Transvaal, replied with an ultimatum demanding their withdrawal. This was refused. The Boer forces at once invaded Natal, Bechuanaland, and Cape Colony, and besieged Ladysmith, Mafeking, and Kimberley.

An Expeditionary Force of an Army Corps of three Divisions and a Cavalry Division, under Sir Redvers Buller, was despatched as soon as possible to the Cape. It included the 6th (Fusilier) Brigade, which consisted of the 2nd Bn. Royal Fusiliers (commanded by Lieut.-Colonel C. G. Donald), 2nd Bn. Royal Scots Fusiliers, 1st Bn. Royal Welch Fusiliers, and the 2nd Bn. Royal Irish Fusiliers, under command of Major-General Geoffrey Barton, a former commanding officer of the 1st Bn. Royal Fusiliers, and who was to become later the Colonel of the Regiment.

The original plan of campaign, decided on before Sir Redvers Buller left England, was to invade the Republics from the south with the Army Corps, whilst making such diversions as possible from Natal. On Buller's arrival all this had to be changed. The situation then was that the majority of the troops in Natal (some 10,000 men), under Sir George White, were besieged in Ladysmith by a force of about 25,000 Boers. Altogether it was estimated that the Boers had at the least 53,000 men in the field. The relief of Ladysmith now became the primary object of the Commander-in-Chief, the invasion of the Republics being left temporarily out of the question. Sir Redvers Buller, therefore, left Lord Methuen, with part of the force in Cape Colony, to carry out the relief of Kimberley, while he himself, with the remainder, including the Fusilier Brigade, moved by sea to Durban in Natal to carry out his plan for the relief of Ladysmith. On December 15th he made his first effort, which was defeated at Colenso.

In the meantime in Cape Colony Lord Methuen, after three successes in his advance to relieve Kimberley, met with a serious reverse when he attacked a Boer force, under Cronje, at Magersfontein.

These reverses, coupled with the representations of Sir Redvers Buller, made the Government realize the magnitude of the task. Three more divisions were mobilized and steps were taken to raise 4,000 Yeomanry. The nation was thoroughly aroused and all ranks and classes responded to the call for volunteers. In addition, the self-governing Dominions, recognizing their obligations as partners in the Empire, sent contingents; thus the war became a war of the British Empire.

The supreme command was now given to the veteran Field-Marshal Lord Roberts, who had, as his Chief of Staff Lord Kitchener, fresh from his successful campaign in the Soudan.

In February, 1900, Lord Roberts had in the Cape Colony 52,000 men, and in Natal 40,000, of whom about 10,000 were shut up in Ladysmith.

Even now he felt that he would need heavy reinforcements to meet wastage of war, and he asked that 8,000 Imperial Yeomanry and thirty battalions of Militia might be despatched to the seat of war as soon as they could be mobilized. Among the latter was the 5th Bn. Royal Fusiliers.

Lord Roberts' plan of campaign was first the relief of Kimberley, then an advance on the capital of the Orange Free State. This advance, he felt sure, would relieve the pressure in Natal, and so enable Buller to join hands with Ladysmith.

The plan met with complete success. By a bold dash Sir John French, with the Cavalry Division and a Mounted Infantry Division,



passed the Boer force, under Cronje, which had held up Lord Methuen's advance, and relieved Kimberley.

By the relief of Kimberley, Lord Roberts had scored the first real success of the campaign, and had opened the way for an advance on the capitals of the Boer Republics. Cronje realized this, and commenced a hurried retreat towards Bloemfontein.

But Lord Roberts was already practically athwart his path, and Sir John French, returning from Kimberley, threw the Mounted Divisions across the head of Cronje's Army and delayed it while the Infantry Divisions, of Lord Roberts' force, closed up and gradually surrounded it.

After severe fighting Cronje decided to surrender at Paardeberg, February 27th, 1900. A fortnight later the British flag was flying over Bloemfontein, the capital of the Orange Free State.

The advance of Lord Roberts had the effect that he had anticipated. The Boer pressure in Natal was lessened by the move of the Boer commandos to oppose the invasion of their own country. The day after Cronje surrendered, Buller's troops entered Ladysmith, after a series of well-fought actions. The Royal Fusiliers' casualties in the Relief of Ladysmith were light, and amounted to only 5 killed and 69 wounded.

There now only remained Mafeking to be relieved, and for this operation the 10th Division, to which the Fusilier Brigade belonged, was transferred via Durban and Cape Town to Kimberley. Sir Archibald Hunter, who had been entrusted with the task of rescuing Baden-Powell's little garrison, decided to send a small flying column to carry out the actual relief, whilst he himself, with his main body, held off any Boer forces trying to interfere. The flying column, with the exception of one hundred picked men from the Fusilier Brigade—the Royal Fusiliers furnishing their quota—consisted entirely of mounted troops. It carried out its task without difficulty, and Mafeking was relieved on May 4th.

Meanwhile, Sir Archibald Hunter moved to Rooidam and attacked the commandos of Generals Liebenberg and Du Toit. The action was completely successful, and the enemy were driven off. The 2nd Bn. Royal Fusiliers again got off lightly, its total casualties being about twenty.

Further successes followed, and on June 5th Lord Roberts entered Pretoria, the capital of the Transvaal. The resistance of the Boers appeared broken, and the aged President Kruger deserted his fellow countrymen and escaped to Europe. On October 25th Lord Roberts proclaimed the annexation of the two Republics to the British Empire, and, in the following month, handed over his command to Lord Kitchener. The Boers, however, showed marvellous powers of recuperation, and



many hard actions in a long period of guerilla warfare were fought before they were subdued. It was not until March, 1902, that the Boer **1902** commanders consented to treat, although the hopelessness of the struggle must have been long apparent. On May 31st the conditions of surrender were signed at Vereeniging.

The honours added to the Colours to commemorate the services of the 2nd Battalion in the war are:—"Relief of Ladysmith" and "South Africa, 1899-1902." In the earning of the latter, however, both the Militia and the Volunteers had a share. The 5th (Militia) Battalion proceeded to South Africa in 1901, while each volunteer Battalion furnished a contingent which served with the 2nd Battalion.

The total casualties, in action, of the 2nd Battalion during the war were:—Officers: Killed, 4; wounded, 4. Other Ranks: Killed, 17; wounded, 92.

It was during the course of the war, in January, 1901, that Queen Victoria died but, happily, not before the success of her Army was assured. She had succeeded to the throne, in unsettled times, as a girl of eighteen, and during her long and glorious reign of sixty-four years her Empire had become the greatest the world had ever seen. Among the last acts of the aged Queen was to confer a signal honour on her father's old Regiment when she granted H.R.H. The Duke of York (now His Majesty King George V) his first commission in the Army as Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Fusiliers (July, 1900).

Before leaving the period covered by the South African War, brief reference must be made to the trouble which occurred in China in 1900. A serious rising had as its object the expulsion of all foreigners. After various outrages, the foreign residents in Peking and Tientsin were besieged by the "Boxers." Those in the former place, the capital, collected in and defended the British Legation. After some fighting both places were relieved, and the rising put down by an Allied force—British, German, Japanese, French, American, and Russian—under the supreme command of the German General Waldersee.

In the years which intervened between the South African and Great Wars, the active service of the British Army was limited, almost **1904** entirely, to the periodical small wars on the Indian Frontier.

In one of these, the Expedition to Tibet in 1904, the 1st Bn. Royal Fusiliers took part and was the only British regiment employed. This little campaign differed from the usual frontier expedition in that, instead of being against the unruly Mohammedan tribes of the North-West Border, the opponents were a Buddhist people living beyond the North-East Frontier. Tibet, aptly called "the roof of the world" owing to the altitude of the country which varies from 12,000 to 25,000 feet above sea-level, is theoretically a part of China. Lhasa, the capital, which

no foreigner was permitted to enter, was long known as "the forbidden city." The virtual rulers of the country were the "lamas" or monks under the leadership of the "Dalai Lama."

The actual cause of the expedition was that the "Dalai Lama" received, into the "forbidden city," a so-called Russian trade mission. In reality, it was a scheme to introduce arms into the country and to stir up trouble on the Indian Frontier. The Indian Government had no wish to interfere in Tibet but, for the reasons outlined in the chapter dealing with Afghanistan and the North-West Frontier, it had no intention of allowing Russian influence to be extended unchecked to the north-east border of the Empire.

As a counter move the Indian Government demanded that a British trade mission should also be received at Lhasa. This mission, on entering Tibetan territory, had an unfriendly reception. It was supported, promptly, by an expeditionary force. The Royal Fusiliers formed part of the force which marched through the highest country in the world, were present at the assault of the Gyantse-jong, and the entry into Lhasa on August 3rd, 1904. The Dalai Lama and the Russian agent fled. A treaty was signed with the Tibetans, with which Russia and China agreed, to the effect that no foreign power was to receive any territorial or other concession, and was not to interfere in the government of the country. The expedition then withdrew to India.

A special medal was granted for this unique little war. On the return of the 1st Battalion to England in 1906, it was paraded **1906** at Windsor, where King Edward VII personally presented the medals. At the same time His Majesty conferred the honour of Knighthood on Major-General Geoffry Barton, Colonel of the Regiment.

## CHAPTER XI

### THE GREAT WAR.

Situation in Europe, 1914, and reasons—Immediate cause of war—Why Great Britain became a belligerent—Brief sketch of course of war, by years—Royal Fusiliers in the Great War—List of the Fusiliers who were awarded the V.C.—Table showing movements of Battalions of the Royal Fusiliers to different theatres of war.

IN 1914 the situation in Europe may be very briefly described as a large armed camp, with the several armies only waiting for the word to attack each other. The chief cause of this situation was the foundation of the German Empire by Prussia. Prussia had commenced activities in 1864, when she and Austria attacked Denmark and took two provinces (Schleswig and Holstein). Two years later Prussia quarrelled with Austria about the same provinces. In the short war that followed Austria was badly beaten (Battle of Sadowa), and Prussia became the leader of the German States.

Four years later (1870), Prussia, with other German states as allies, notably Saxony, Bavaria, and Wurtemberg, went to war with France and defeated her. By the Treaty of Paris, Prussia took the provinces of Alsace and Lorraine from France.

At the same time, Prussia and the German States, who were her Allies, combined as the German Empire, with the King of Prussia as Emperor and Supreme War Lord. The German Empire now became the greatest military Power in the world, and, with a thrifty and ever-increasing population, began to turn her attention to colonial expansion and to building up a navy. To make herself more secure she made a treaty, known as the Triple Alliance, with Austria and Italy to the effect that if one of the parties were attacked, the other two would give assistance.

France did not forgive the seizure of her provinces, and in addition feared that, sooner or later, Germany would find an excuse to attack her again. France eventually made an alliance with Russia, the only remaining great military Power in Europe. The Triple Alliance, therefore, faced the Franco-Russian Alliance.

Great Britain kept clear of these alliances. Her old policy of balance of power on the Continent held good. She even ignored the ever-increasing German Navy; the growth of German Colonial power; and the expansion of German maritime trade which rivalled her own.

Possibly, the geographical situation of Germany, not lending itself to world sea-power, reassured her.

A glance at the map will show that a German fleet to put to sea had to come out of the Baltic, through the narrow straits north of Denmark, and then either round Scotland or down the English Channel. It would appear easy for a British fleet to intercept it. Again Great Britain held many of the principal overseas harbours and coaling stations (Gibraltar, etc.), and Germany had none. Germany, however, did much to improve her naval position in home waters; she constructed the Kiel Canal, which allowed ships to pass from the Baltic to the North Sea without going round Denmark. She also obtained from Great Britain the Island of Heligoland, situated off the exit to the Kiel Canal, and transformed it into an impregnable naval base in the North Sea.

While, therefore, Great Britain was in no way anxious to join any alliance, there were many thinking people who regarded a war between France and Germany with many misgivings. It was highly probable that Germany would be victorious and get possession of ports in France and the French colonies. The powerful German Navy would then be a real danger to the British Empire. It was thought that, if France was finally crushed, Great Britain was likely to be the next object of German ambition.

As this danger became more apparent, Great Britain eventually came to an understanding with France, known as the Entente Cordiale. Ostensibly it was to avoid any chance of trouble between the two nations; in reality, it was a broad hint to Germany that Great Britain did not wish to see France crushed. Then the storm burst.

The immediate cause of the Great War was, comparatively, a small one. The heir to the Austrian throne was murdered in Serbia. Austria accused the Serbian nation of responsibility and, when her humiliating terms for reparation were refused, threatened war. Russia, who regarded herself as champion of the small Slav States and was opposed to Austrian aggression in the Balkans, supported Serbia.

Germany, as Austria's ally, urged Austria to attack Serbia and assured her of support if Russia intervened. France (Russia's ally) had no interest in the quarrel, but realizing that, as soon as war was declared, she would be attacked by Germany, urged moderation. Great Britain, the one great Power not involved, invited the others to a conference in London with a view to settling the matter amicably.

Germany, however, prevented any chance of peace. She was convinced, apparently, that Great Britain would not intervene in a war owing to political differences and trouble in Ireland, and that the time was opportune to bring on the inevitable war, when France would be crushed finally.



Germany and Austria, taking the mobilization of the Russian Army as an excuse, declared war on Russia. France, as Russia's ally, was automatically involved. As soon as France and Germany were at war with each other, Belgium appealed to the Great Powers to respect her neutrality, which they had guaranteed when she became an independent State (1830).

Belgium lay on the border between France and Germany, and she had no wish that her territory should be the theatre for a war in which she was in no way interested. In former wars—Marlborough's, Napoleon's, etc.—Belgium had been the scene of so much fighting as to be called "the cock-pit of Europe." She did not desire to repeat the experiences.

The three principal signatories of the treaty guaranteeing her neutrality, were Great Britain, France, and Prussia (now represented by the German Empire). On receipt of Belgium's appeal, Great Britain, as the one Power not involved, requested the other two to declare their intentions to abide by their pledges. France at once gave her promise. Germany did not reply, and when Belgium announced that large German forces were concentrating on her frontier, it was apparent that Germany intended to attack France through Belgium. When Great Britain demanded an answer, the German Chancellor told the British Ambassador that Germany could not agree that her armies would not enter Belgium, and that he could not understand why Great Britain should worry about a scrap of paper—the Treaty. The British Government eventually decided to insist on the fulfilment of the pledge given. The British Ambassador in Berlin was instructed to inform the Imperial German Government that, unless it declared its intentions before midnight, August 3rd/4th, to respect the pledge given not to invade Belgium, His Majesty's Government would consider it as a declaration of war.

The German reply was for German troops to cross the Belgian Frontier, and Great Britain entered the Great War.

The following two lists show the nations whose troops actually took part in the fighting :—

1. Serbia, Montenegro, Russia, France, Belgium, British Empire, Italy (who held that circumstances did not bind her to the Triple Alliance), Japan, Portugal, Roumania, and the United States of America, on the one side.

2. Austria, Germany, Turkey, and Bulgaria, on the other.

The only European Powers not involved were Spain, Switzerland, Holland, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden, while Greece attempted a double game.

The paragraphs which follow give a brief sketch of the course of the Great War.



As has been indicated already, the German plan was, first, to crush France by a rapid and unexpected advance through Belgium, and then to deal with Russia. The first part of this plan, actually put into operation, drove back the French Army and British Expeditionary Force to within a few miles of Paris. Then the impetus of the German thrust broke down owing, to a great extent, to the Russian invasion of East Prussia which necessitated the despatch of large German forces to oppose it. The Allies, under General Joffre and Sir John French, counter-attacked the German right and won a brilliant victory, on September 6th, on the banks of the Marne. The German line fell back to the River Aisne, where a further battle was decisive in so far as the original German plan was defeated definitely.

The scene of main activity then shifted northwards with a new German plan of a thrust towards the north coast of France with the object of driving a wedge between the Allied Armies, the destruction of the British Army, and the capture of the Channel Ports. The British Army had already been moved northwards into Belgium so as to cover its sea bases. The First Battle of Ypres resulted and, after fierce fighting lasting a month, this second German plan was successfully checked.

At the end of 1914 the situation on the Western Front was, that the long period of trench warfare had commenced, while on the Eastern Front, the Russian invasion of East Prussia and Austria foreshadowed important decisions in that direction.

In the meantime, the Allies had seized all the German Colonial possessions except East Africa, where a British expedition had met with a reverse. The future conduct of the operations in this area was handed over to General Botha, and later to General Smuts. Both had been Boer leaders in the South African War, but now, as British subjects, led the troops of the Empire against the common enemy.

At sea, the German main fleet remained in the protection of its harbours. There was, however, an outlying German squadron, under Admiral von Spee, in the Pacific. This squadron met and destroyed an inferior British squadron, under Admiral Craddock, off the coast of Chili. Von Spee's success was short-lived for, a few weeks later, he was brought to action and his ships sunk by another British squadron, under Admiral Sturdee, off the Falkland Islands.

Another important event, with far reaching effects, was the entry of Turkey into the war, on the side of Germany.

Before the end of the year it was apparent how thoroughly the whole British nation had been roused. Lord Kitchener had been appointed Secretary of State for War, and his call for recruits had produced a rush to the Colours throughout Great Britain, an answer equally

readily given by the manhood of the great Dominions, Colonies, and Dependencies of the British Empire.

On the Western Front the Allies undertook several offensives with the object of breaking the German line and of preventing the  
1915. despatch of German reinforcements to oppose the Russians.

The principal attacks, undertaken by the British, were Battle of Neuve Chapelle (March), Battle of Aubers (May), Battle of Loos (September). No real success was gained and the trench warfare continued throughout the year.

On the Eastern Front, the Russian Armies met with serious defeats and were driven out of East Prussia and Austrian territory.

The entry of Turkey into the war, as already stated, produced far-reaching results. An attack on the Suez Canal was defeated by British, Australian, and Indian troops. The closing of the Dardanelles stopped the transport of supplies to and from the Black Sea, thus seriously affecting Russia. This resulted in an attempt by the British and French to seize the straits, both by a naval attack and by large forces landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula. The attempts failed and, after much fighting and heavy losses, the troops were somewhat lucky in being able to withdraw.

A British-Indian force was despatched to Mesopotamia partly to create a diversion and partly to protect the oil fields near Basra. An advance towards Baghdad met with some success, but subsequently a force under General Townshend, was surrounded by Turkish forces and besieged in Kut. After repeated attempts, resulting in heavy losses, had been made to relieve General Townshend, he was compelled to surrender in April, 1916.

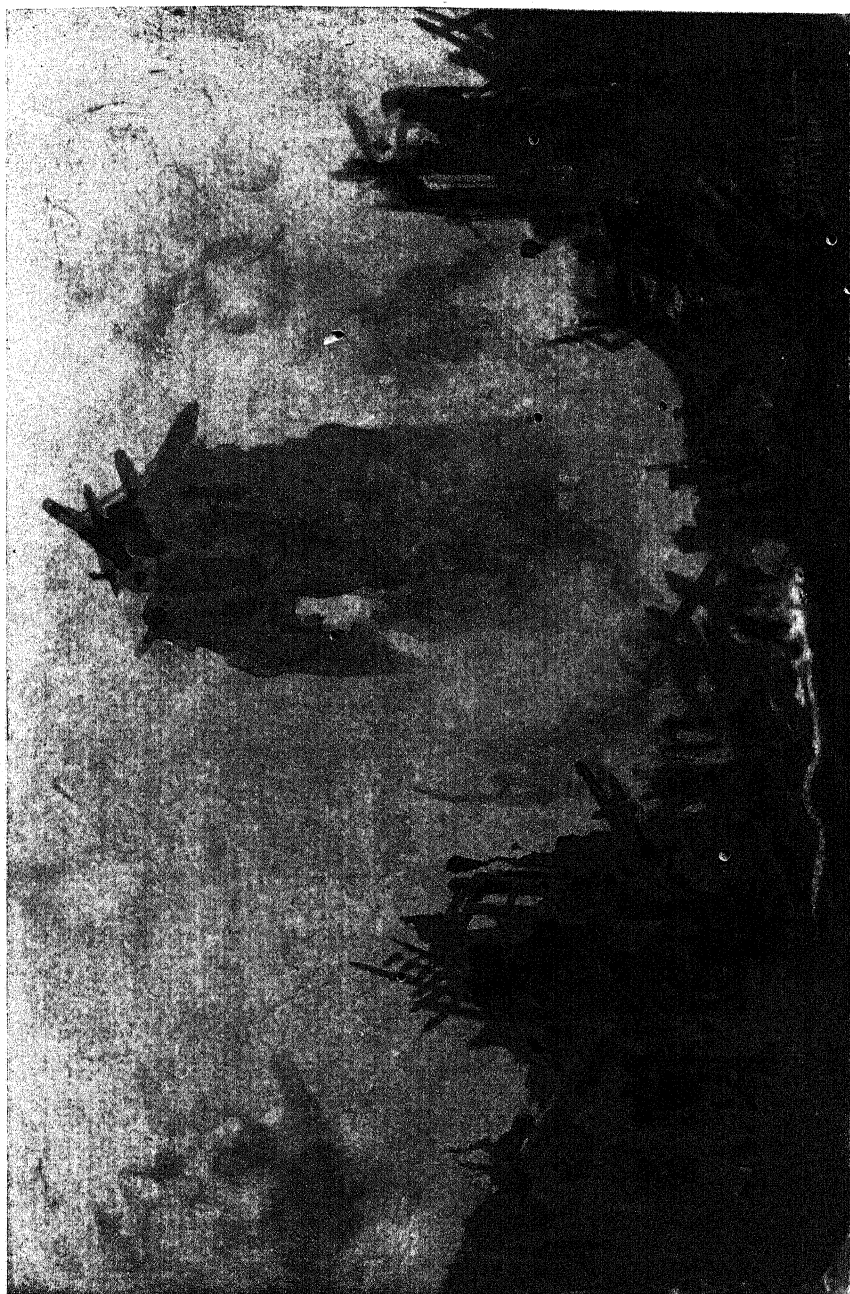
At sea the German main fleet issued from its harbours for the first, and only, time in the war. The Battle of Jutland (May) resulted.  
1916. The Germans met with some initial success, but subsequently fled home. The next appearance of the German Fleet was when it put to sea to surrender to the British Fleet in November, 1918.

Italy entered the war on the side of the Allies, and her Army met with considerable success in an offensive against the Austrians.

Russian armies also inflicted heavy defeats on the Austrians.

On the Western Front, after a heavy German offensive at Verdun had been defeated by the French, the French and British carried out a series of attacks (Battle of the Somme) which continued from July to October.

The entry of Bulgaria into the war resulted in the complete collapse of the Serbians who, after earlier defeats by the Austrians, had made a wonderful recovery. This necessitated the despatch of French and



YPRES, 1915.





British forces to Salonica thus opening up a new theatre of war for the Allies with additional demands on their resources.

It was in June of this year that Lord Kitchener was drowned, when H.M.S. *Hampshire* struck a mine in stormy weather. He was on his way to Russia to assist in the reorganization of the Army.

On the Western Front, the French met with a serious reverse which necessitated heavy British offensives to relieve the pressure.

**1917** The British casualties in the Battle of Passchendaele were exceptionally severe. A later offensive, in November (Battle of Cambrai) met with an initial British success which was balanced, however, by the results of the German counter offensive.

On the Italian Front it was necessary to despatch French and British troops to assist the Italians, whose line had been broken by a combined German and Austrian offensive.

On the Eastern Front, the Russian Armies ceased to exist. A revolution broke out in Russia ; the Czar was dethroned and subsequently murdered, with his wife and children. Russia, whose action had been one of the immediate causes of the Great War, was the first to leave it.

Rumania had entered the war on the side of the Allies, but, owing largely to a faulty plan of operations, her Army was completely defeated in a very short time by a German-Austrian Army in a really brilliant campaign.

In Mesopotamia General Maude conducted a successful advance and reoccupied Kut, and captured Baghdad after inflicting several defeats on the Turks.

The United States of America entered the war on the side of the Allies.

The year opened critically on the Western Front. The Allies had lost heavily in the previous year ; the American troops were **1918.** not yet ready to take the field in any strength ; and the disappearance of the Russian armies had allowed the Germans to bring heavy reinforcements from the Eastern Front. England also was feeling the efforts of the submarine campaign.

In March the Germans delivered an overwhelming blow on the British front which resulted in a serious break and the capture of nearly 100,000 British prisoners and 1,000 guns. Fortunately the stubbornness of the British and French soldiers succeeded in holding the Germans when within measurable distance of victory.

This was the supreme effort of the Germans and, after a short interval to allow of reorganization of the French and British Armies, Marshal Foch, who had been appointed to the command of all the Allied Armies in the West, commenced a counter-offensive on all fronts.



Success was met everywhere. On the Salonica Front the Bulgarian Army was defeated and Bulgaria sued for peace.

On the Italian Front the battles on the Piave decided exhausted Austria to end the struggle.

At the same time, the operations of General Allenby in Palestine commenced in 1917, which included the capture of Jerusalem, and the complete defeat of the Turkish forces resulted in Turkey going out of the war.

Germany was thus left to face the Allies alone and, on the Western Front, her armies were being relentlessly pushed back by continuous attack of British, French, and American Armies.

The effect on the war-tired German nation was great. A mutiny broke out in the Navy when it was ordered to put to sea, and there were signs of unrest in the exhausted Army. The Emperor abdicated and found shelter in neutral Holland, and the German Government asked for an Armistice with a view to peace, and fighting ended on November 11th.

#### THE ROYAL FUSILIERS IN THE GREAT WAR.

Mr. H. C. O'Neill, in the preface to his work, "The Royal Fusiliers in the Great War," says:—"But in the case of the Royal Fusiliers the historian is faced with the task of dealing with 235,476 men who fought in every theatre, except Mesopotamia, put in an appearance at almost every considerable battle of the war, and whose dead numbered 21,941." And again, later, he remarks: "At the Battle of the Somme there were a greater number of Royal Fusiliers engaged than the total Allied forces at Inkerman."

At the outbreak of war the Royal Fusiliers consisted of 4 Regular Battalions, 3 Special Reserve Battalions, and the 4 Fusilier Battalions of the London Regiment (T.F.)—a total of 11 Battalions. Before the end of the war, if the North Russia Relief Expedition of 1919 may be included, a total of 65 Battalions had worn the uniform of the Regiment, and, of these, 45 had served overseas.

The above facts will make it clear that it is impossible, in an outline of history as contained in this little volume, to attempt to deal with the story of the Regiment in the Great War. Some idea of the services of the battalions overseas may be gathered from the table at the end of this chapter, but for details the reader must refer to Mr. O'Neill's book.

Still, even while realizing that distinctions are invidious, it may be permitted to give a few examples of how the Regular, Service, and Territorial Battalions worthily maintained the reputation of the great Regiment to which they belonged.

The 4th Battalion was the first to meet the enemy and, alone represented the Regiment during the fateful days of Mons, Le Cateau, the Retreat, the Marne and Aisne, and had earned five battle honours, including two now carried on the Colours, before the next battalion (1st) appeared on the battlefield.

It was at Mons, where the Battalion received its baptism of fire, that Lieutenant Maurice Dease and Fusilier S. F. Godley won the first Victoria Crosses granted in the Great War.

It was the 4th Battalion who formed the rearguard for the 3rd Division from Le Cateau.

It was after the Battle of the Aisne that Colonel McMahon was able to publish the Order: "... From the warm terms of praise used by the Divisional and Brigade Commanders, the Commanding Officer thinks it may be assumed that the Battalion has earned some measure of distinction in these operations, and feels this recognition of something achieved for the country at heavy cost to the Regiment, coming as it does, after several acknowledgments of good work at Mons, of good marching and of all-round efficiency, will increase the feeling of pride which all have in the Regiment, and encourage all ranks to earn further distinction in the future."

It was after this battle that the Commander-in-Chief (Sir John French) visited the Battalion and, addressing it, said: "No troops in the world could have done better than you have. England is proud of you, and I am proud of you." To this may be added the tribute of Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien: "I simply cannot find words enough to express my admiration for the way in which your regiment has behaved. . . . In fact, I can safely say there is no better regiment in the British Army than the Royal Fusiliers."

Once more, in those early days, was the 4th Battalion to furnish an example, but at terrible sacrifice, of the conduct which was to characterize the Regiment through the war. On November 11th, 1914, the last phase of the First Battle of Ypres gave the death blow to the German attempt to break through to the coast. To quote Lord French: "Two fresh German Army Corps had come up, the Guard and the XV. In short, the Germans were about to deliver their final desperate blow. Up the Menin road came the first tremendous onslaught. At the first clash of arms the Germans pierced our line with a rush. This was splendidly disputed by the Royal Fusiliers under McMahon, their gallant and devoted leader, who was killed while the Battalion was almost annihilated. Reserves, however, quickly came up. Counter-attacks were organized and delivered. The attack was repulsed with terrible loss to the enemy."

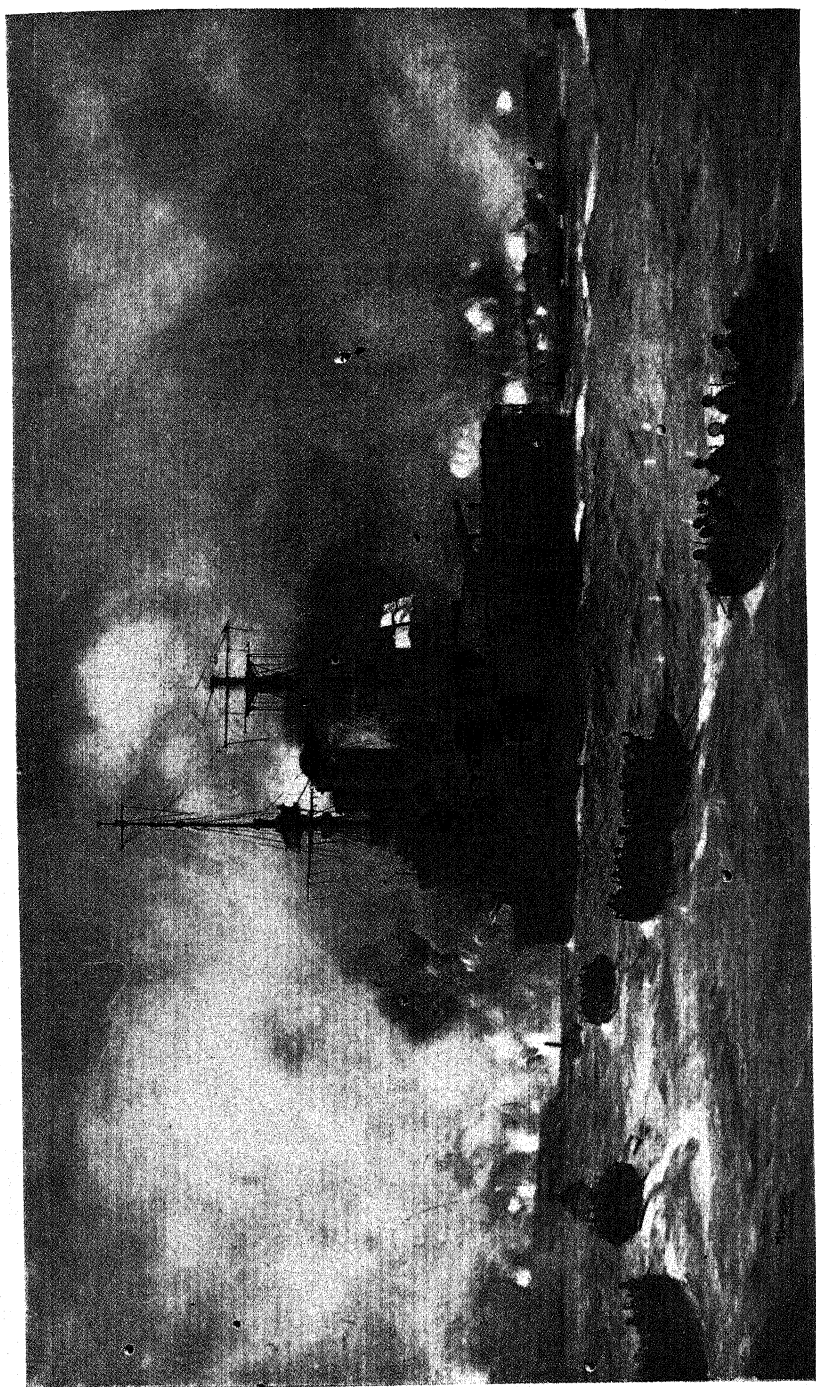
The Battalion had lost heavily in the early stages of the battle, and it was but a skeleton that met the German assault. Following a tremendous bombardment, the 4th (Queen Augusta's) Guard Grenadiers struck the Royal Fusiliers, and the little band of men received the first assault with the bayonet and hurled it back. A second assault gained some of the trenches and it was while rallying the men that Colonel McMahon fell. "He was a most gallant and distinguished officer, who impressed all who came in contact with him. 'A Royal Fusilier,' he said to the Battalion on the eve of embarkation, 'does not fear death. He is not afraid of wounds. He only fears disgrace; and I look to you not to disgrace the name of the Regiment.' Not merely the Battalion and the Regiment, but the Army as a whole, lost by his death." He was the first, of many Fusilier Commanding Officers to fall in the war, and also the first to die in action since Lacy Yea fell at Sevastopol, with whom one may justly compare him.

For the next example the scene shifts to the Gallipoli Peninsula where, as Mr. O'Neill states: "The 2nd Battalion has written a memorable page in one of the most tragic episodes of the war. Landing on the Gallipoli Peninsula with the 29th Division they saw the campaign through to its close in brilliant failure." Sir Aylmer Hunter Weston, writing of the landing, says: "It was an impossible task for any but high disciplined, well trained, skilfully led, heroically brave, grimly determined Britishers, animated by high ideals and upheld by the traditions of their battalions and their race. It may truly be called the achievement of the impossible."

The 2nd Battalion, under Colonel Newenham, made its entry into the Great War when six boats left the side of H.M.S. *Implacable* and made for "X" Beach, Cape Helles, on April 25th, 1915. The men rowed in as rapidly as possible until the boats grounded, when they jumped into the water and waded ashore. Ably supported by the guns of the *Implacable* they scrambled up the cliff and then, in spite of a heavy covering fire, without hesitation or wavering, they rushed a Turkish trench.

Meanwhile, the boats had returned with the remaining two companies. Colonel Newenham moved with them to effect a junction with the Lancashire Fusiliers at "W" Beach. As Mr. O'Neill, from whose work this account is taken, justly says: "The smallest pardonable indecision at this point, and the whole landing would have failed. Colonel Newenham had seen the Lancashires were suffering terribly in even approaching their beach. Between 'X' and 'W' Beaches lay Cape Tekke crowned by Tekke Hill and, in order to join hands with the Lancashires, the Royal Fusiliers had to carry it. The hill had been elaborately entrenched and was also defended by land mines, but the





H.M.S. "IMPLACABLE," WITH THE 2nd BATTALION ROYAL FUSILIERS, APPROACHING  
"X" BEACH, GALLIPOLI, APRIL 25th, 1915.





Royal Fusiliers, cheered on by the *Implacable's* crew, carried it at the point of the bayonet. They then re-formed and advanced north-east and east, and met with heavy opposition on the reverse side of the hill. The Turks were dislodged from their entrenchments and the Royal Fusiliers dug in. They had achieved contact with the Lancashires, and their rôle had been amply filled. The Battalion's casualties had been very heavy. Both Colonel Newenham and the Second-in-Command had been wounded. No company commander escaped, and the Battalion was reduced to about half strength. But a careful study of the situation during this day makes it evident that their contribution had been decisive. The troops at 'Y' Beach were held, and actually withdrew the following day. The landing at 'V' Beach was in the air. The first hours of the Lancashires' landing at 'W' Beach found them hardly able to do more than hang on. The swift march upon and capture of Tekke Hill turned the scale on 'W' Beach, and, with the linking of the two beaches, a feasible, if precarious, foothold was established on the Peninsula."

But the landing at Cape Helles was only one of the many incidents on the Peninsula, which caused an officer to say of the 2nd Battalion: "Where all have done well, the Royal Fusiliers have been beyond praise. Not only have they always done what might have been expected of them, but they have risen to a standard of soldiering which could not be higher, and never departed from it. I am filled with admiration for them."

The records of the Service Battalions offer so many incidents, any of which would serve as an example, that it is no easy matter to single out one.

The story of how the 8th and 9th Battalions met the German counter-attack at the Battle of Cambrai (November 30th, 1917), is chosen both because it deals with two battalions and because those battalions happened to be the senior Service ones of the Regiment.

In the earlier phases of the battle the British advance had made a deep, narrow salient in the German lines. The German counter-attacks were delivered against the shoulders of this salient.

On the southern shoulder the 8th and 9th Battalions felt the full shock of the German assault.

"The 8th, on the left, lay east of La Vacquerie, and the 9th, on the right, lay in trenches south of Gouzeaucourt—Cambrai road. At 6.45 a.m. on November 30th an intense artillery bombardment began, and at 7.40 infantry attacks developed. Almost immediately the resistance of the Brigade on the right of the 9th Battalion was overcome, and 'C' Company was forced to withdraw, taking up a position astride the Cambrai road. The Germans advanced down the Hindenburg front line after the troops of the Brigade to the brigade headquarters.

'B' Company at once delivered a counter-attack across the open, forced back the Germans two hundred yards, when bombing blocks were made in all the trenches and the position was held firmly. 'D' Company, on the left, were surrounded and most of them became casualties. Only 1 officer and 13 other ranks succeeded in fighting their way back to the main body of the Battalion. Contact was made on this flank with the 8th Battalion, but the right was still in the air until the 7th Royal Sussex manned the reserve line and connected up. . . . German aeroplanes, flying only about fifty feet above them, harassed them continually with machine-gun fire. . . . Yet, with the help of about half a company of the 7th Norfolks, they held to their position.

"The 8th Battalion, on the left, had gone through a similar ordeal. The Germans, who had broken through on the south, appeared in great strength on the right rear of the front line companies, who, in a few minutes, were completely cut off. Some twelve men only fought their way back to the reserve line. 'D' Company went up to support and were overwhelmed, and fell back fighting to the reserve line, where the Battalion Headquarters were established.

"The Germans were only fifty yards from the reserve line when the Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Colonel N. B. Elliot-Cooper, D.S.O., M.C., collected all available men of Battalion Headquarters and 'C' and 'D' Companies, about 120 in all, and led them in a counter-attack. The small body went forward cheering; the Germans wavered and were then driven back over the Cambrai road, but there heavy machine-gun fire was encountered. Elliot-Cooper himself fell. All the officers, became casualties, and, seeing the impossibility of maintaining and consolidating the position, he ordered the withdrawal. He was only twenty-nine years of age, and by this order he deliberately accepted the bitter fate of falling into the hands of the Germans. His order for the withdrawal was marked by high courage and selflessness. He deserved, as he received, the Victoria Cross, but, unfortunately, he died a prisoner in Germany.

"The survivors fell back as they were ordered to the reserve line. The German advance was checked in this quarter, and with the 37th Brigade on the left, and the 9th Battalion on the right, the new line was established. All enemy attacks were beaten off. The 8th Battalion had lost 10 officers and 247 men; the 9th Battalion had lost 13 officers and 208 other ranks.

"There was no attack during the night, but at 7 a.m. on the following morning, the Germans attempted to cross the Cambrai road on the front of the 9th Battalion. They were repulsed by rifle and machine-gun fire, and the attack was repeated seven times with the same result. At 12.30 p.m. the enemy opened a heavy bombardment and then began

bombing attacks. When its supply of bombs had completely given out, the Battalion was forced to withdraw 150 yards to a point just north of the Cambrai road, where the enemy was held. These two battalions had fought an engagement in conditions that were not paralleled until the German offensive of March, 1918, and, never ceasing to be an ordered fighting force, had given ground only when no troops could possibly have held it. At the end they handed over an organized position to the relieving troops. The 9th Battalion were the only troops to retain their position south of the Cambrai—Gouzeaucourt road for those two days, during which no rations reached them, and the supply of bombs completely failed.”—(From Mr. H. C. O'Neill's book, “The Royal Fusiliers in the Great War.”)

In selecting examples of the standard, as maintained by the “Fusilier” battalions of the London Regiment, it is possible to avoid any idea of invidious distinction, both because the grouping in Brigades made two or more battalions partners in the same gallant enterprises and because, owing to casualties and shortage of reinforcements, as will be seen in the table at the end of the chapter, battalions were amalgamated or merged in one another.

No regiment could ask for a finer example of stubborn courage than that offered by the London “Fusilier” Brigade of the 58th Division during the first thrust of the great German offensive in March, 1918.

The reader must refer to Mr. O'Neill's work for the complete story; here it must suffice to quote extracts from one incident and to add that, after five days' continuous fighting, when the Brigade had lost practically all but its spirit, the remnants were formed into one weak battalion.

The incident is that stand of “A” Company 2/2 Londons on March 21st, the opening day of the offensive.

“ . . . . . Travecy was gassed and no further news was gained of ‘A’ Company. . . . Within an hour they were a besieged garrison, cut off from all communication with the rest of the Army. These men held their original position as long as there remained even the ghost of a chance of success. A platoon, reduced to ten men and an officer, held the southern end of the village until only the officer and a wounded man remained. Two or three hundred dead Germans lay about their post before they fell back to the central Keep. The other platoons fought with similar stubbornness until at noon the remnants of all were concentrated in the Keep. This small body, perhaps fifty to sixty strong, was seldom left in peace. Throughout the day and night, and up to dusk on March 22nd, attempts were made to rush the position. . . . At length, when darkness fell, the weary and hungry men had exhausted all their ammunition. They had used in their gallant resistance 18,000 rounds S.A.A., 200 trench mortar shells, and 400 hand grenades. They

2/3rd Londons : Malta, December, 1914—February, 1915 ; Egypt, February, 1915—August, 1915 ; Gallipoli, August, 1915—May, 1916.

2/4th Londons : Malta, December, 1914—June, 1915 ; Egypt, June, 1915—October, 1915 ; Gallipoli, October, 1915—May, 1916 ; France, May, 1916—Armistice.

3/3rd Londons : France, May, 1916—September, 1916.

3/4th Londons : France, May, 1916—September, 1916.

• NOTES.—(a) Second Line London battalions amalgamated with First Line battalions about May, 1916, whereupon Third Line battalions became Second Line. Third Londons later had only one battalion in the field.

(b) 43rd and 44th Battalions formed of garrison guard companies about June, 1918, in France.

(c) 45th and 46th Battalions raised April, 1919, for service with North Russian Relief Force.



## CHAPTER XII

### EVENTS AFTER THE GREAT WAR.

North Russian Relief Force—Third Afghan War—Arab Rising in Iraq—The Irish troubles—The Dardanelles, 1922-23—Reduction in the Army: Disbandment of 3rd and 4th Bns. Royal Fusiliers—Concluding remarks.

WHEN the Armistice with Germany (November 11th, 1918) practically ended the Great War, the Service units were disbanded and Territorial and Special Reserve units were demobilized as soon as circumstances allowed. The Regular Army was re-formed with men serving on normal engagements or, as a temporary measure, with men specially enlisted for shorter periods.

The world situation, as left by the war, however, demanded more of the Regular Army than a mere return to its pre-war garrison duties, but it must suffice here to give a brief account of the principal causes or reasons which have, up to the present, called for its active employment.

#### NORTH RUSSIAN RELIEF FORCE.

Towards the end of the war a small British force had been dispatched to North Russia with a view to assisting the party which was  
1919 endeavouring to establish a constitutional government from the chaos arising out of the revolution. The situation was, however, beyond repair, and in April, 1919, the small British forces, in Archangel and Murmansk, were in danger of destruction and it was necessary to despatch a relief force to extricate them. Included in this force were two battalions (45th and 46th) Royal Fusiliers, raised for the purpose from recently discharged soldiers who volunteered. The evacuation of North Russia was carried out successfully after some fighting in which both Fusilier battalions distinguished themselves, the 45th Battalion gaining two Victoria Crosses.

#### THIRD AFGHAN WAR.

The world upheaval, caused by the Great War, had affected Afghanistan although she had not been a belligerent. Her  
1919 two great neighbours had been among the principal participants. One, Russia, had collapsed under the ordeal; while the other, the British Empire, though victorious appeared heavily crippled.

It was partly in furtherance of this object that Allied—French, British, and Italian—forces occupied Constantinople, the Gallipoli Peninsula, and adjacent territory.

Unfortunately Greece, whose attitude during the war has been referred to, was allowed to participate in the occupation. Greece imagined that a defeated Turkey offered opportunities to gratify her ambition, and accordingly undertook a campaign of aggression against Turkey. The result of the fighting in Asia Minor was disastrous for Greece. The victorious Turks considered their success upset the decision of the Great War, and warranted demands on the Allies.

The subsequent position of the Allied troops in Constantinople, and on the shores of the Dardanelles, became critical. Reinforcements were despatched from England and the self-governing Dominions offered assistance. The tact and firmness of the Allied Commander-in-Chief, Sir Charles Harington, averted a conflict, and in 1923, after peace had been signed with Turkey, the Allied troops were withdrawn.

The 2nd Bn. Royal Fusiliers was among the reinforcements sent out at the critical period. It found itself on the shores of the Narrows; the object of its heroic efforts in 1915. During a year's stay on the Gallipoli peninsula the Battalion took part in memorial services on the scene of the historic landing at Cape Helles and again of the later fighting at Suvla.

Reference must also be made to an interesting ceremony which took place at Kilia on May 16th, 1923. To celebrate the anniversary of the Battle of Albuhera (1811) and to commemorate the recovery of the Buffs' Regimental Colour by the 2nd Bn. Royal Fusiliers, the two battalions jointly trooped the former's Colour.

Before the ceremony, the Colour, guarded by two Buffs, was held by a Sergeant of the 2nd Bn. Royal Fusiliers. The right half escort to the Colour was composed of Buffs, and the left half of Fusiliers, and the guards were alternately Buffs and Fusiliers. The incident will no doubt be long remembered in both regiments and serve as an additional link between them.

In order to bring this brief outline of history to date—December, 1925—it remains only to record the reduction in the Army made in 1922.

The enormous financial obligations incurred during the Great War, demanded the strictest economy in the national expenditure. In the hope and belief that another war was not imminent it was, perhaps, only natural that the Fighting Services should be the first objects for such economy.

As a part of the scheme of Army reduction the 3rd and 4th Battalions Royal Fusiliers were disbanded at Aldershot on July 16th, 1922.

This inadequate outline of the history of the British Army, the wars it has served in, and the part played in them by the Royal Fusiliers, has reached its close. The work of the historian, however, never ends. History is made day by day and, as time goes on, other pens will record how the present and future generations of Fusiliers, in their turn, upheld the honour of their Sovereign and their Country, the reputation of the British Army, and the fair name of the great Regiment in which it was their privilege to serve.



# APPENDIX "A."

The following table gives the location of Battalions of the Royal Fusiliers from 1857 to 1926, excluding the period covered by the Great War:—

Year.	1st Battalion.	2nd Battalion.	3rd Battalion.	4th Battalion.
1857	To India	Raised, England	—	—
1858	"	Gibraltar	—	—
1863	"	Malta	—	—
1865	"	Canada	—	—
1867	"	England	—	—
1869	Aden	"	—	—
1870	England	"	—	—
1871	Portsmouth	Portland	—	—
1872	"	Fermoy	—	—
1873	Aldershot	Cork	—	—
1874-75	Dover	Poona	—	—
1876	Colchester	Belgaum	—	—
1877	Dublin	"	—	—
1878	Templemore	"	—	—
1879	Cork	Colaba	—	—
1880	"	Kandahar	—	—
1881	Pembroke Dock	Bellary, Madras	—	—
1882	Tower of London	" "	—	—
1883-84	Colchester	" "	—	—
1885	Gibraltar	Cannanore	—	—
1886	Cairo	"	—	—
1887	"	Wellington, Madras	—	—
1888	Poona	"	—	—
1889-90	"	Dover	—	—
1891-92	Quetta	Woolwich	—	—
1893-94	Karachi	Guernsey	—	—
1895	"	Belfast	—	—
1896-97	Mhow	Curragh	Dover	—
1898	Nasirabad	Aldershot	Malta	—
1899	"	South Africa	Gibraltar	Dover
1900	Mandalay	" "	Cairo	Shorncliffe
1901	"	" "	"	Woolwich
1902	"	Aldershot	Khartoum	"
1903	Lebong & Tibet	"	Bermuda	"
1904	Parkhurst	Lebong	"	Dublin
1905	"	Secunderabad	South Africa	"
1906	"	"	Middleburg	Mullingar
1907	Tidworth	"	Pretoria	"
1908	"	"	Pietermaritzburg	"
1909	Dublin	Jubbulpore	Mauritius	Aldershot
1910-11	"	"	Chakrata	"
1912	Kinsale	Calcutta	"	Parkhurst
1913	"	"	Lucknow	"
1914	Prees Heath	Bordon Camp	Le Quesnoy	Bordon Camp
1915	"	Ambala	Valenciennes	"
1916	Aldershot	Landi Kotal	Danzig	Kirkuk
1917	Killarney	Aden, Aldershot	Bordon	Jullundur
1918	Jullundur	Belfast	Aldershot	Aldershot
1919	"	Kilia	—	—
1920	"	"	—	—
1921	Landi Kotal	Aldershot	—	—
1922	Ambala	"	—	—
1923	"	"	—	—
1924	"	"	—	—
1925	"	"	—	—
1926	"	"	—	—



## APPENDIX " B."

Some regiments are fortunate in having a Chapel in a Cathedral or historic Church, within their Territorial district, in which to hang their old Colours or to erect their memorials. The Royal Fusiliers have no such sanctuary or home and consequently their similar records of past service are scattered far and wide.

The following lists give the resting places of certain pairs of Colours, etc.

### COLOURS.

1. A pair of Colours carried during the time H.R.H. the Duke of Kent commanded the 1st Battalion, 1789-1801. They were worked by Queen Charlotte and the princesses of England. Now in the Depot Barracks, Hounslow.

2. A stand of Colours of the 1st Battalion of the end of the eighteenth century. These Colours are now hanging in the Banqueting Hall of the Royal United Service Institution.

3. The remnants of the Colours of the 1st Battalion carried by them in the Peninsular War and at New Orleans. These Colours became, in accordance with the custom of the time, the property of the Colonel of the Regiment, Field-Marshal Sir Edward Blakeley. He was then Commander-in-Chief, Ireland, and he caused them to be placed in the chapel of the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham. They remained there till shortly before the evacuation of the British troops from the Irish Free State, when they were removed to the Depot Barracks, Hounslow.

4. A stand of 1st Battalion Colours deposited in the Garrison Church, Portsmouth, in 1851.

5. The Colours carried by the 1st Battalion in the Crimean War, now hanging over the Regimental Memorial in Winchester Cathedral.

6. A stand of Colours of the 2nd Battalion in St. Paul's Cathedral over the Afghan War Memorial. This stand was carried from 1858 to 1897.

7. The Colours of the 3rd Battalion deposited in the Guildhall on disbandment in 1922.

8. The Colours of the 4th Battalion which were presented by H.M. King George V when Prince of Wales in 1902, deposited in the Guildhall on disbandment in 1922.

9. A stand of Colours of the 1st Battalion at the Tower of London in the Chapel of St. Peter ad Vincula. These Colours were presented in 1885 and had been placed upon the poles of those carried through the Crimean War. They were deposited in the Tower of London, the birthplace of the Regiment, on Armistice Day, November 11th, 1926.

10. A stand of Colours of the 5th Battalion, formerly the Westminster Middlesex Light Infantry, now in the Guildhall. This stand dates from the Crimean period, and bears the honour "Mediterranean" inscribed upon them.

11. Five stands of Colours of the 7th Battalion, formerly the Royal London Militia, now in the Guildhall. Four of the oldest of these are those of the Regiment when it was the East and West Regiment of London Militia about 1793. One of these bears the arms of Sir Watkin Lewis, Lord Mayor in 1780-1, and Colonel of the East London Militia, another stand of those which were in service during the Peninsular War and Waterloo period, and one of the Crimean period, another stand which was presented in 1873.

12. About twenty King's Colours in Hounslow Church which were presented to some of the Royal Fusilier Service Battalions who served in the late War.

#### MEMORIALS.

1. WESTMINSTER ABBEY.—A mural tablet to the memory of Major-General William Hargrave, Colonel of the Regiment, 1739-51. On it the Regiment is described as the "Royal English Fusiliers."

2. WESTMINSTER ABBEY.—Grave and Monument of Major André, formerly of the Regiment, who was executed as a spy by order of General George Washington during the American War of Independence.

3. ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.—A Memorial, erected at the public expense, to the memory of Lieut.-Colonel Sir William Myers, Bart., Commanding 2nd Battalion, who fell at Albuhera while in temporary command of the "Fusilier Brigade."

4. DEVONPORT.—A marble tablet in Princetown Parish Church. "Sacred to the memory of Corporal Joseph Penton, Privates Patrick Carlin and George Driver of the 7th Royal Fusiliers, who lost their lives in a snowstorm on a neighbouring moor on the 12th February, 1853, when in the execution of their duty. This tablet is erected in token of his admiration of their ardour as soldiers (in braving the danger in preference to disobeying orders) by the Commanding Officer, Lieut.-Colonel Lacy Yea of the 7th Royal Fusiliers."

N.B.—They had been sent on escort duty to Dartmoor Prison. Owing to a snowstorm the Governor advised them not to return; they replied that they must obey orders.

5. WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL.—Memorial to those of the Regiment who died in the Crimean War.

6. ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.—Memorial to those of the 2nd Battalion who died in the Afghan War, 1879-80.

7. GUILDHALL.—Memorial to those of the Regiment who fell in the South African War.

8. HOLBORN BARS.—Royal Fusilier Great War Memorial. Statue of a Fusilier, in an attitude of victory, guarding the entrance to the city.

9. GUILDHALL.—Roll of Honour of the Royal Fusiliers who died in the Great War.

10. ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE, SANDHURST.—A panel recording fifty-seven names of officers of the Regiment who lost their lives in the Great War, who passed through the College.

11. KANDAHAR GARRISON CEMETERY.—A monument to the officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the 2nd Battalion who fell in action or died of wounds during the Afghan Campaign. Erected in 1881.

12. QUETTA, ST. MARY'S CHURCH.—A brass tablet to the officers, non-commissioned officers and men who died during the time the 1st Battalion were quartered at Quetta, February, 1891—March, 1893.

13. HOUNSLOW GARRISON CHURCH.—Brass tablet to the memory of those of the 4th Battalion who died in Mesopotamia, 1919-21.

Another Memorial, of a different nature, is on the Esplanade at Gibraltar. A marble tablet bears the inscription:—

A.D. 1842.

THE ROADS WERE MADE AND SURFACE LEVELLED OF  
THIS HERETOFORE RUGGED HILL BY THE VOLUNTARY  
LABOURS OF HER MAJESTY'S SEVENTH ROYAL FUSILIERS.

\*SIC FUIT  
SIC SEMPER ERIT  
MILES BRITANNICUS  
BELLO FORTIS  
PACE, BONUS ET UTILIS

\* Thus has been  
Thus ever will be  
The British soldier  
In war brave  
In peace, orderly and useful

## APPENDIX "C."

### REGIMENTAL CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS.

1. *The Origin of the Regimental Badge.*—Probably one of the reasons the Regiment were granted the Royal and ancient badge of the rose within the garter surmounted with the crown was that many old cannon were cast with this royal badge upon them, until the reign of Queen Anne. (See examples illustrated on Plate facing page 4.) Cannon of this period may be seen at the Tower of London and the Rotunda, Woolwich.

2. The officers of the Royal Fusiliers enjoy the privilege of being permanent honorary members of the Messes of the Royal Welch Fusiliers and the 43rd Light Infantry (1st Bn. Oxford and Bucks); a privilege which is reciprocated. The "History of the Royal Welch" attributes the privilege, in so far as that Regiment is concerned, to a long war connection, and especially to the "Colour Incident at the Alma." Tradition is not clear on the subject, but the Royal Welch explanation is open to doubt, as the 43rd Light Infantry were not associated with the other two at that battle. The three regiments were, however, brigaded in the Army of Occupation in France after Waterloo (1815). It is probable that the officers became close friends, and it was during this time that these courtesies were interchanged.

3. The very old custom of drinking the Sovereign's health in Service Messes has its origin in the uncertain times of the Jacobite Rebellion, 1715-45, when it was advisable that officers should give proof of their loyalty to the House of Hanover.

The officers of the Royal Fusiliers, however, do not observe this custom in their own Mess. According to tradition, William IV, 1820-30, was dining with the officers of the Regiment when, as customary, the Royal Toast was proposed. The King remarked that as the loyalty of the officers of the Royal Fusiliers must always be beyond question, it was quite unnecessary to give any such proof. Since that occasion it has been regarded as the privilege of the officers to omit any such outward token of loyalty when in their Mess.

4. The custom of the Band of the Royal Fusiliers playing "Rule Britannia" before the National Anthem is a very old one, and certainly existed ninety years ago, probably much longer. The tune was written in 1740, and as up to, and shortly after, that time the Regiment, on several occasions, served in the Fleet as Marines, it was no doubt considered an appropriate tune especially as the Regiment's first Colonel, The Earl of Dartmouth, was an Admiral of the Fleet.

The swords, with their brass scabbards, worn by the Band of the 1st Battalion, are of a special pattern and some of these are the originals given by H.R.H. The Duke of Kent when commanding the Battalion. The right to wear them was challenged, on at least one



occasion, by an inspecting officer during the reign of Queen Victoria. The matter was, however, dropped when the question of an appeal to Her Majesty was raised. It was obvious that the Queen would have sanctioned a custom introduced by her father.

5. The Royal Fusiliers share with the Grenadier Guards, Buffs, Royal Marines, and H.A.C. the right to march through the City of London with bayonets fixed, drums beating, and colours flying. This privilege was recognized officially in a document signed by the Lord Mayor on October 13th, 1924.

During the end of the eighteenth century the officers of the Regiment observed a custom of wearing the Regimental Badge embroidered upon their gloves.

6. The nickname "Elegant Extracts" was given to the Royal Fusiliers by other regiments because from the date of their formation they had no officers of the rank of Ensign, only full Lieutenants. Therefore, when an officer was posted to the Regiment, an Ensign or 2nd-Lieutenant from another regiment had to be chosen and promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. This custom of having no Ensigns in the Regiment continued until the Crimean War, when, owing to the difficulty of meeting the losses in officers taking part in the war, a great number of fresh commissions had to be given and newly-joined officers were posted to the Regiment.

During the Great War the name was revived under rather different circumstances in that it was given to the 4th Battalion Concert Party about 1917.

7. "Nec aspera terrent," the regimental motto, a free translation of which means "Hardships or difficulties do not terrify us." The Fusilier of to-day will make it his duty to live up to the spirit of this as did the Fusiliers of the past.



## APPENDIX "D."

### SUCCESSION OF COLONELS, ROYAL FUSILIERS.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Name.</i>
1685	June 11th	Lord Dartmouth.
1689	Aug. 26th	Earl (afterwards Duke) of Marlborough.
1692	Jan. 23rd	Lord George Hamilton (afterwards Earl of Orkney).
1692	Aug. 1st	Colonel Edward Fitzpatrick.
1696	Nov. 12th	Sir Charles O'Hara (afterwards Lord Tyrawley).
1713	Jan. 29th	Hon. James O'Hara (afterwards Field-Marshal Lord Tyrawley).
1739	Aug. 27th	Major-General William Hargrave.
1751	Jan. 26th	Colonel John Mostyn (afterwards General).
1754	Aug. 20th	Colonel Lord Robert Bertie.
1776	Nov. 12th	Colonel Richard Prescott (afterwards Lieut.-General).
1788	Oct. 20th	Major-General Hon. William Gordon (afterwards General).
1789	April 9th	H.R.H. Prince Edward, Duke of Kent (afterwards Field-Marshal).
1801	Aug. 21st	Lieut.-General Sir Alured Clarke (afterwards Field-Marshal).
1832	Sept. 20th	Major-General Sir Edward Blakeney (afterwards Field-Marshal).
1855	Jan. 18th	Lieut.-General Sir Samuel Auchmuty.
1868	May 1st	Lieut.-General Sir Richard Airey (afterwards Lord Airey).
1881	Sept. 15th	Lieut.-General Sir Richard Wilbraham.
1900	May 1st	Major-General Sir Geoffrey Barton.
1922	July 7th	Major-General Colin G. Donald.
1924	Sept. 18th	Major-General Sir Reginald Pinney.
<i>Colonel-in-Chief:</i> H.R.H. Prince George, Duke of York. Appointed July 11th, 1900. Succeeded to the throne as King George V, May 6th, 1910.		

"GOD SAVE THE KING."

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